Box 35

Petersburg,Alaska
Sept.25,1940

Dr.Evert B.King
Board of National Mission,
156 Fifth Ave.
New York,N.Y.

Dear Mr.King:

Sometime ago I wrote and told you that I was leaving Angoon,around the twentyth of this month,well I left Angoon the 24th It took me five days to make it here in my boat.It happened to be just about the stromyest trip I had ever made.I had to hire a man to come with me.

I asked you about a place to live in last spring,but in your letter you asked us to live over the Church,so we came down and found that there was a lady living over the Church,so we are staying on the boat,but I thinke we will be moving up and use the hall way back of the church for our ketchin and use the back of the up stairs to sleep in.I was told that the Board had a contract with our Board to let the woman stay over the Church.I heard the contract was with the Bureau of Indian Affairs office.If it is so I would like to know.Back of the up stairs is also rented out by the Board to a labour Union.How long does these contracts hold?

With all the things we are meeting I am glad to serve this field,for things are in such a mess here and a worker is sure needed.We are scrubing up the building today getting ready for our frist prayer meeting.PRAY FOR PETERSBURG.

Everything is run down,we have no stove to cook on, there is a good one here but,the lady is using it.All the locks in the doors are broken in,water pipes are bursted.

Just about how much will the Board will be able to let us have to fix up the building.I am getting things that is needmost,I think it will take about $35 to get a little done.I would like to get some locks for the doors,paint to paint the back of the Church so we could use same for a ketchin.

The stove in the Church is gone altogather it just cannot be used.The Church here asked for $125 for a new oil stove.I have not heard if the money has been granted.I hope it has.For we just got to have a stove in the Church.If you see to it that we get a stove I could get along without a manse.It so happened last yeat that the sto stove at Agoon was burned out.The stove at the Angoon,Church is my own stove.

Well it seems as though all I do is cry and ask for things I do hope that this will be the last time I am asking for things for I know that it is hard, for the Board to get things as the funds are limited.

After I landed here I found out that the trips costed me just a bout 35 dollars moving thinss costs so much here, it isnt like an Indian village where one can get a lot of things done by friends. I th think if the Board helps me with $25 I will appreciate same very much In your letter of May 29, you told me that you will take care of our moving expenses from Angoon to Petersburg.

Cordially yours,

George R. Betts

We are having drawn a check for $35. moving expenses since you stated we would pay the bill for moving expenses

Charged 1939-40

October 15, 1940

AIRMAIL

Mr. George R. Betts
Petersburg, Alaska

Dear Mr. Betts:

I note from your letter of September 25 that your moving expenses from Angoon to Petersburg amounted to $35. We therefore enclose our Treasurer's check for that amount.

We shall be glad to provide $35 toward the urgent repairs needed in the church building and our Treasurer will mail you a check for that amount. We hope this will enable you to buy new locks for the doors and paint the back of the church and the kitchen.

We have available $120 for a new heating stove in the church. If you will go ahead and get the stove and send us the bill for this amount, we shall send you a check promptly.

We do have a contract with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to rent the two rooms over the church to Mrs. Mary Sawa. At a later date we shall let you know about the length of this contract and also the rental of the rooms to the Labor Union.

Hoping that you will be able to make your living quarters comfortable for the winter, I am,

Cordially yours,

signed Everett B Kelly

HEW:DH
Enclosure

October 19, 1940

AIRMAIL

Mr. George R. Betts
Petersburg, Alaska

Dear Mr. Betts:

We enclose our Board's check for $62.50 covering your regular salary payment for the month of October. When you receive the supply of monthly report blanks we have sent you, please forward us a report of your work accomplished during the month of October, signing the attached voucher covering this salary payment.

Yesterday we wired Mr. Bromley in your care, authorizing the expenditure of $250 to provide living quarters for you and your family by making the necessary changes and installing plumbing. I do hope you will soon be living more comfortably.

With cordial good wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

HEW:DH
Enclosure

October 25, 1940

AIRMAIL

Mr. George Betts
Petersburg, Alaska

Dear Mr. Betts:

I am very much interested in seeing that your living quarters there in Petersburg are livable. Of course we do not have a carload of money to be hauled away, but at least we do have enough to make your living quarters such as will provide you and your family a decent home. Please do not hesitate, therefore, to send me requests for the necessities you require.

Enclosed is my personal check for $50 that I want you to use in the interest of your daughter Fanny. I do not know her needs, but of course you do. Please see that all of this check is used for her interest and comfort.

Cordially yours,

EBK:DH
Enclosure

P.S. Enclosed also is a check for $5 made possible by a friend. You are to use this money in improving your living quarters in any way you see fit.

E.B.K.

October 25, 1940

ALEMAN

Mr. George Potts
Petersburg, Alaska

Dear Mr. Potts:

I am very much interested to hear that your living quarters there in Petersburg are livable. Of course we do not have a critical demand to be heard anyw, but at least we do have enough to make your living quarters such as will provide you and your family a decent home. Please do not hesitate, therefore, to send us requests for the necessities you require.

Enclosed is my personal check for $80 that I want you to use in the interest of your daughter Fanny. I do not know her needs, but of course you do. Please see that all of this check is used for her interest and comfort.

Cordially yours,

SAM:EM
Enclosure

P.S. Enclosed also is a check for $5 made payable by a friend. Use it to use (this money in improving your living quarters in any way you see fit.

S.A.M.

Petersburg,Alaska
Nov.14,1940

Balance - $10.00 Stove -

Dr.Everett B.King,
Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America.
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York,N.Y.

Dear Mr.King:

I was rather afraid to write.It seems as though I am always asking for something everytime I write,so I think I am just about past the mood of asking.Well,I think if the front rooms were not rented I wouldn't have asked for a thing.The front rooms were the rooms we used when we were here before.However Mrs.Sawa has moved out about two weeks ago,so we are using the rooms.

Mrs Betts has been sick in bed for two weeks,she caught a very bad cold.She did not get the cold because of our living quarters,for a lot of our people here went down with colds.She is up now and around the house now.

When Rer.Mr.Bromley,was here,he made some plans as to how the living quarters should be fixed up.It is altogather different then what I had figured on.Mr.Bromley wants to front rooms fixed up for living quarters I think his plans is very good.Mr.Bromley wrote out an order for meterial to Sears and Robuck.I have not sent the order yet.

I bought an oil stove for our living quarters before Bromley came here it was so cold.I thought if the Board was unable to refund the money for the stove I would keep it for our home home or sell it when we leave here.It is a $69 stove.The store here let me have it for $55 as I was to use it in the mance here.Mr.Bromley thpught the stove could be used here in the manse.He turned over $45 of the rent money to me and told me that it could go towards the stove.The stove came in very handy.For the cold weather set in earlyier then former years.It got cold over night and frooze up our water.I had to pack water for eight days,it warmed up now and we have our water running.I at once went to work on the pipes,I am sure that the pipes will not freeze up again.This building is sure run down.I ahve theporch porch fixed up.I haven't started on the sewer yet.For if we move the living quarters up in front I will have to have a diffrent conection.As it is now the ketchin sink emptys under the building and the city does not approve of things like that.I will get to it before long,

I got the new oil stove for the Church.I set up the stove day before yesterday.Words cannot express just how happy I am.Mr.King,I honestly do not undsrstand how the old stove stuck togather,I started to move the old stove and it fell apart.It broke into eight peices.I was afraid that it would be falling apart during some of our services.We all sure apprecáate very much the grant you are giving us for the stove,as I understand that our Alaska budget is taxed to the limit but,I am sure that the old stove we had could have burned down our building.

I was sure súrprised to get the check for $50 from the Board.The gift from Mr and Mrs.John Scheide.I sure made use of it.I used it durring the illens of Mrs.Betts,It was God's send.I just do not know how to thank them.I am writing them through this mail.

Now for the work here.There are about 90 Natives here,there are about 50 Japaneseand abput 75 Filipeness.I am trying to work with these three groups as they work togather in the canneries here.The Lutheran Church of course is working withgthe Whites,however,there is a fleet of fishing boats that winter here,Dúrring my calls I go down on the float and call on some of the white fishermen.There are about 60 boats wintering here this winter.Just today I went down to the float and found one old fisherman sick in bed.Just about every day Native boats are coming here to shop.They stay here from one to ten days.That is one reason I like this field.You know it is very hard for the Natives to go to town,the minute they land there is always some one there to show them just where the liguor stores are,and nine times out of ten they go there.But when one goes down and greet them they will come up to the house and go to Church.When I was at Kake often I was asked"Why don't some of the members of your Church come to Church when they come to town ? I see them on the streets but they do not go to Church dúrring their stay."So I make it a practic of going down to the float two or three times a day to see who is in, as I know just about all the boats.

Just about half of the Natives here belong to the Roman Catholic Church.A few belong to the Salvation Army.

The program here is pretty well filled.The Salvation Army,has a Week Day Bible Class.Just about every week day is occupyed.I am trying to work with the Salvation Army.We have our evening Worship three thirty Sunday afternoon so we can unite Sunday evenings.I am having my Bible study Wednesday evenings.So is the Salvation Army.I do not know what attance he has.I asked them to unite with our Bible class but,they did not say anything as to what they wanted.We have two Japanese girls attending our class.I hope that we will be able to intrest more in the near future.Fanny is helping with the classes.She has charge of the Sunday School altogather.She sure is a great help this year.We have 22 in our week day Bilbe class most of them are attending the high school here.

The members of this Church has got to learn to give to the Lord's work.It is a thing that the members has got to learn.The Natives here work the year around yet they do not give as they ought to.They never did give enough to pay for the lights and fuel they use in the Church.This Church has always been this way.The light bill for Oct.was $8.50 the fuel bill was$12,I had to pay that myself.The light bill wont be high this month for I put in smaller globes.They had six,two hundard wad lamp globes.I took them out and put in six,seventy-five wad globes.So I will have a great job to train the members here to suport the work here.

However,last Sunday,I asked the members to give what they can to the Board of our National Missions.I told the members that we have asked the Board for a lot and that the Board is very short and limited in their Alaska budget. They gave $4.50.I will again ask them to give.Thanksgiving Day.

About a month ago one Native woman gave herself to the Lord.This woman was a drunkard.We knew here when we were here before.We often talked with her about her soul.We had given her up for a hopless case.One Sunday morning she walked into the service.I saw her sober for the frist time.She sat way back. Just before we closed the morning worship.I had already called for the closing song.This woman got up and wanted to know if she could say a word.I noded. Then cried out."God save me"we prayed with her.She gave herself to the Lord. Every body thet knew her were sure surprised.It has been a month now since she gave herself to the Lord.Well,I thought that she was one of those that com come and say such things and go right out and start drinking.But we are pray- for her.And she is standing frim.She is telling others what the Lord has done for her.Her husband was up to see me the other day and told me what a great change had taken place in her life.

Now I want to thank you for the fifty dollars that you send to our girl i do not know just what to get.Right now I do not know just what shee needs most.She got a job at the cannery the other day.She is going to save enough to go to collage next year.I think you people are trying to do too much for us there are others that need things worse then we do.

I went along with Rev.Bromley to Wrangell,there I met Rev Champlain,O,I think that he and his wife are so in ernest in their work for the Master.I als also went down to the boat to meet Rev.and Mrs Booth.I brought them up to our place.I do hope that they will like Alaska.

I will promise to write often hereafter.It is getting late now so I will have to close.

May God bless you in your great work.

Sincerely yours,

George R. Betts

Petersburg, Alaska
Nov. 16 - 1940

Rev. E. E. Bromley:
Hoonah, Alaska

12/5/40

Enclosed is the report of the Petersburg Church. I got your letter. I just send out the order to Sear's. Mrs. Sawa got a house and moved out. She moved out just before the cold set in. The work here is getting intresting. I am glad to say that the sister that claimed Christ is standing firm. I will tell you more in my next letter.

Sincerely,

George R. Betts

Petersburg,Alaska
Nov.23,1940

Dr.Everett B.King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York N.Y.

Dear Mr.King:

Herein is a bill for the oil stove and a bill for the pipe fittings for the stove.You may send the check direct to the company.We sure like the stove and we will always remember the kindness of the Board for the great help that you gave to our Church.

Sincerely yours,

George R. Betts

P.S.The bill is 119.70

G.R.B.

November 26, 1940

AIRMAIL

Mr. George R. Betts
Petersburg, Alaska

Dear Friend George:

I am deeply sorry your wife has been ill, but I am glad to note she is on her way to complete recovery.

According to your report, the stove cost $55 and Mr. Bromley turned over to you $45 of the rent money toward payment, thus leaving a balance due of $10. I am ready to send you a check for this amount, but since there are other repairs you need to make, I shall wait until you send me a statement in full. Please, therefore, send me that statement immediately and I will see to it that the check is forthcoming.

Perhaps it would be best for you to use my $50 check toward the college expense of your daughter for next year. Let her be the judge.

Sincerely yours,

EBK:DH

December 6, 1940

AIRMAIL

Mr. George R. Betts
Petersburg, Alaska

Dear Mr. Betts:

We enclose our Board's check for $119.70 drawn to the order of C.E. Swanson Company, Petersburg, Alaska, in payment of their bill dated November 12 for the oil heater and fittings.

Please transmit the check to them, have them receipt the enclosed bill, and return it to us.

Cordially yours,

HEW:DH
Enclosures 2

Petersburg,Alaska
Jan.13,1941

Dr.Everett B.King
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York,N.Y.

Dear Mr.King:

Just about all the people here were laid up with the flue.I was in bed for about ten days but,I am well now.Mrs Betts and Frances were both sick but they are well now.The flue had tosome just when we should have been busy with our holiday programs.I did not have any services for two weeks,but we are getting underway now.

I think you asked us some time ago to give you a report of the work every three months.

When we arrived here we found the community split,owing to labour difficulty.Just about half of our natives belonged to the A.F.of L the other half belonged to the C.I.O.Each of the organizations were fighting for the Bargaining rights and this made.so the two orgainizations were not on speaking terms.and just to make things a little worse our church was rented to the A.F.of L.The frist step was then to get and unite our community.I just did not know how to start.I prayed over the matter for this has been on for three years.(when I fished out of Kake I had to join the A.F.of L.as Kake is an A.F.of L.) I had to drop my membership in the A.F.of L frist.I do not know just how it came about of the impossible came through.The two unions or members of the two unions came and made up.Ofcourse the unions are made up of every nationality.I frist started a song service and invited the people to the service.So for our Christmas choir we had sixe Filipnoes thre Japances girls one Chinaman,one Negro girl two white girls and two white boys and ten Alaska Indians including Frances and myself.so we had every race and color under the sun.The angel proclaimed"For,behold,I bring you good tidings of great joy,which shall be to all people.But the flue came right after Christmas and so we have not been able to go on with our song service but hope to be able to get together in the very near future.

Sometime ago I told you about a woman that made a stand for the Master.I am glad to say that she is still standing for Him.

I am sorry that I did not send out the six dollars and fifty cents that we were to send to the Boards.You will find the money order in this letter Our community is also sending $20 towards the "Princeton"fund if you already have enough use the twenty for the Boards also

1/22/41
A.B.H.M.A.C.
Princeton Hall Boat

C.W. 1/22/41
indicated in Monthly Report as for Natl Miss
+ so credited

The fixing up of the living quarters is a bigger job then I expected.It is really taking up too much of my time.and it will take a lot more money then what is granted.Mr.Yaw told me that you will be coming up in June.I am glad that you are coming up.You will see for yourself just what the place is like and what is done and what is needed.I think that the plumbing should be done by a plumber.I could do the plumbing if it was on the frist floor but being up stairs it should be just right no leaks.as the floor is not very tight.If there is any leaks at all it will run right down in the Church.I saw the plumber and told me that he will do the job for 75 dollars.If I do not have enough out of the grant I will try and get the community to help.

Well,I hear the boat whistling in so I will have to close

Sincerely yours

George R. Betts

P. S. I am send all bills to Bromley

January 23, 1941

Mr. George R. Betts
Petersburg, Alaska

Dear George:

I was glad to get your good letter of January 15. Thank you for the $20 you have sent in to be applied on the PRINCETON-HALL boat.

We have already credited the $6.50 to National Missions.

I am still eager to know more about the condition of the plumbing there in your living quarters. I think it would be well for you to get a plumber to make an estimate of the cost to place all in proper condition.

Cordially yours,

FBK:DH

Petresburg,Alaska
March,17, 1941

Rev.E.E.Bromley
Hoonah,Alaska

Dear Mr.Bromley: 4/1/4

Inclosed is the report for the month,We sure had a good visit from Walter Soboloff.I think Wlater was very tired for we sure worked him hard while he was here.We apperciated his visit very much.We had a good meeting.I am so sorry that he could not stay longer.

I just got the projector,it went past here and I sure tried to locate it but it came back the other day it went to Seattle, I was sure glad that it was located.

Well,We are all looking forward to the meeting of Presbytery and hope we will all meet there.

Sincerely yours,

Geo. B. Betts

ALASKA

B+67,

Petersburg,Alaska
Oct.6,1941

Dr.Everett B.King
156 Fifth Avenue
New York,N.Y.

Dear Mr.King:

I do hope that you got back home safe after your nice visit to our field.I feel and know that your visit has been a great blessing to us all.

I arrived here shortly after you passed by this port.I could not very well go fall fishing as I already stored my fishing outfit for the winter.I had all our things in the boat ready to come down when I was at Sitka.It sure would have been too much work to pack everything ashore at Angoon,so I came right on down.However,I think four months is to long to close this Church.You know I stayed here right up to about the frist of July.However the members here were so glad to see us back. They sure were hungry for the Word of God.The people of this burg does not go out to canneries outside of this town,instead people from out towns come here durring the summer months to work at the canneries here,as maybe you noticed that there are three canneries right in town.Please do not think I am trying to get more time in then what the Board is asking me to serve, but,we must doas St,Paul,says to"Preach the Word;be instant in season,out of season.....".

I haven't taken up the matter of rebuilding our Church as yet. But I will get around to it as soon as I can.I got the oil cook stove that I asked you about.I am sending you the bill.You mentioned not to get the cheapest one,however,I got one that coats $99.50.It is the cheapest one but I can asure you that it is a good one.Mrs Betts likes it very well.and I do sure would like to thank you for it.

I would appreciate very much if you will let me know at the earlies date as to what the Board will allow me to the coming year and how long I am expected to stay.So I can send in to the Board of Pensions the amount due them for the coming year.As yet I have not had my appointment for this field .

Sincerely yours,

George R. Betts

Petersburg,Alaska
Dec.3,1941

Dr.Everett B.King
Board of National Missions of
the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.
156 Fifth Ave.,New York,N.Y.

Dear Mr.King:

I think it is about time I am writing and tell you just how things are getting along here.We are having an early winter this year.We have about ten inches of snow and it is freezing a little.

Right now we are busy getting things ready for our Christmas program,as the community here looks to the Church to prepare a Christmas program,so it sure keeps us all busy right at this time.Frances,is a great help to us here,she is also in charge of our Sunday School.There are but few of our children left here,most of the children are away to the different [illegible] schools.Alot of our younger children are send to the Roman Catholic school up at Skagway,it is really too bad,for after returning they will not come to our Sunday Schools,so you see most of the children here are Roman Catholices.I tried to get them to come to a Week Day Bible class but they just won't come

A lot of our people have moved away from here,they have moved to different villages some went to the States,but we have new families moved in from other villages,so you see we do not have the same crowd here every winter,of course there are a few families that stay here right along.

Most of the work has to be personal work,we just have to visit the homes of the people.I find in doing so we are able to do a lot more.Doctor,sometimes I would say to myself,oh just what is the use,I am not doing any good,the more I try to help my people the worse they get,but when I go out and see a lot of people,poor people,friendless people,poor children,Oh it sure is a great joy to go and share with such people,Whites as well as Indians,for there are a lot of Whites that needs cheering up in this town.I do not report all that we do,but Doctor you can be sure we are doing our share.Right now there is a sick woman in our gest room.We have a young girl fifteen years of age that ran away from a Cathaloic school at Seattle,Mrs Betts found her on the street and brought her home now we have notified her Dad. He will be here to get her.Last week Mrs.Bettsmet two young girls,from Sheldon Jackson School,returning home,to keep from someone getting them drunk.Mrs.Betts kept them home with us until there was a chance to send them to their homes,one was a Kake girl the other a Yakautat girl

Well,it is no use of telling more.I suppose that you heard of the death of Mrs Andrew Wanamaker.I got a wire from Andrew,It is really to bad.Mrs.Wanamake was such a good worker,and her death is a great loose.She too has done a lot for her dear people when she was in the field.We will miss her a lot,but we do know that it was the Lord's will.

I called the Elders of the Church togather and asked them about rebuilding the Church,They were not in favor of rebuilding right now,but will think the matter over.I sure would like to see a fine little Chapel here instead of our big building but,then it will take some money to rebuild and,there are so few of us here it will take two or three years to raise the money.

It sure has been a great pleasure to meet you,Mr.King,,I am sure I would like to see you come up again.I think that I will be able to take you out fishing.I am rather glad we did not go the time we planned on going for I did not have the right outfit at the time,however I would have liked to have taken you out for the trip.But I know that you was out on yhe Masters bussness.Please except the little Christmas remberence we are mailing you.My wife and I are sending you a pair of moccsins and a small basket to Mrs. King.The only time you ever mentioned Mrs.King was in your Sermon you mentioned your motherinlaw in cutting patterns,so there must be a Mrs.King.I hope the pair of moccsins are not like the socks you bought in Chicago,Do you remember you even told the size of the stocken,Well,I didn't remember the size,but Mrs.Betts thinks she does so she made the moccsins accordingly,so if they do not fit don't blame me.Well,we wish you a very Happy Christmas,and be sure to give Mrs.King,our best regards.

May God bless you in your great work for Him,

Sincerely yours,

George R. Betts

Petersburg, Alaska
Dec. 28 / 41

Rev. E. E. Bromley
Honolulu, Alaska.

Dear Mr. Bromley;

The boats are so uncertain that one does not know when one of the boats are coming in.

I intended to write a letter and give a little report on the work here. But one of the boats is in and ready to go out.

We have been working on our church all the week. We have the inside all painted up and papered. It sure looks nice; will tell you all about it later

Yours

George

December 22, 1941

AIRMAIL

Mr. George Betts
Petersburg, Alaska

Dear Brother George:

I have your good letter of December 3rd telling me about the interesting work that you are doing in Petersburg. I know from my visit there that you have a big place in the hearts of the people. They feel that you are respresenting the Christ to them and for them. What a spirit and what a privilege!

Today the package came from you, containing the Mocassins and the basket. I cannot begin to express to you my appreciation and the appreciation of my wife for your remembering us. May the Lord continue to grace your lives and to guide you in rich service.

Cordially yours,

EBK:McE

Box 67
Petersburg,Alaska
March,26,1942

Dr.Everrett B.King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York,N.Y.

Dear Mr.King:

It has been along time since I have written.Frist I want to thank you for the book that you send me last Christmas.It is sure "A day-by-day inspirational guide" and I sure enjoy it.Then I want to thank the Board or members of the Board for the raise in the salary.When I think of our brothers and sisters in the war zone fields it makes me ashamed to think of myself and my family.If there is help to be given I think we should think of them.

The work here is about the same.The shrimp canneries closed down for six weeks,some of the workers have left for their homes but,will be back just as soon as the plants start up.

I had my boat up in the yard for repairs,it is just about complated,The work on the boat amounted to $2500.00 It was rether hard to get men to work in the yard as most of our men are drafted,the last two weeks I had to go to work on the boat as there ware only two men ledt in the yard out of ten.The boat will be launched Saturday.So I was busy for two weeks.

Inclosed a money order for the Boards kindly turn in and have same divided in plank one.

We had our Church papered up inside,it sure looks more like a Churh now.We are planning to have the building painted up on the outside also.We will also fix up the front porch just as soon as we can in the early Spring.

I met Rev.Prouty,on his way south,the boat stopped in for an hour.I was sure glad to have met him.

May God bless you and your family.

Sincerely,

April 25, 1942

Mr. George R. Betts,
Petersburg,
Alaska

Dear George:

Miss Jane Gillespie has just notified me that one of our fine churches in Pennsylvania has adopted you as their missionary and that they are contributing toward your full support. The church is the Bryn Mawr Church. It is one of our very best churches and Dr. Clements is an outstanding Minister.

In order to keep the church interested in you and your activities, it will be necessary that you write to them regularly and tell them about your work. Always remember that the people will be mostly interested in human interest stories.

I note that you have completed the repairs for the boat. It seems the sum of money is quite large, but I suppose that is due to the unusual conditions that are existing.

I am glad you have papered the church and that you contemplate painting the outside. Certainly, as I remember the building, it had a great need for some beautification.

We are still proud of our basket and the moccasins.

Cordially yours,

EBK-M

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to certify that Mr. George Betts has been commissioned as a Lay Worker in the Alaska Presbytery by the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, and that his commission is dated from October 1, 1941 to October 1, 1942. It is our hope that this commission will be honored and recognized and will afford Mr. Betts the privileges that he is entitled to.

Secretary, Unit of Work in Alaska
Board of National Missions of the
Presbyterian Church in the U. S.A.

EBK:MoE

Petersburg,Alaska
June,5,1942

Dr.Everett B.King,
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave
New York,N.Y.

Dear Mr.King:

I was unable to send my report blank for last month owing to the fact that I used my last one the month befcre.Just as soon as you send me some I will send you my report.

I amstill here.I promised that I would take the children to and from the Confrence,so I did not look for work,I could not go on a job and quite soon after going to work,so that I can make the trip.I got the children from Sitka,and Juneau,then came back here.I will be going back to Wrangell,after the morning service here and take back the children.I will be coming back and take my family to Hood Bay,Alaska My address will be Hood Bay Canning Company,by way of Juneau.Hood Bay is just eight miles from Angoon.

We have enjoyed our work here.I got your last letter.So we had a special offering for the Board of National Missions Sunday before last.Inclosed is a money order for the sum of $7.50.We will try and send the rest of our part early next fall.

I just became a GRANDPA,while I was away on the confrence trip.A little girl.Both are well.

I do hope that the Lord will bless you and your family,Mrs Betts and myself always remember you in our prayers.

Sincerely yours,

George R. Betts

June 17, 1942

AIRMAIL

Mr. George R. Betts
Petersburg, Alaska

Dear Brother George:

Under separate cover we are mailing you report blanks which I trust will arrive safely.

Thanks for the good offering that you sent in to the amount of $7.50. We have credited this amount to Petersburg Church as a gift to National Missions.

Congratulations, Mr. Grandpa and Mrs. Grandma. I hope the fine little girl will do well and that she will prove a blessing to all of you as well as a blessing to our great cause.

It is always a joy to get a letter from you telling of your interesting work. May the Lord continue to use you in the rich way that He has used you in the past.

Cordially yours,

EHK:McE

Petersburg,Alaska
Sept.12,1942

Dr.Everrett B.King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave
New York,N.Y.

Dear Mr.King:

We came back from the cannery the fourth of this month.The salmon season was not so good this year,however,a lot of the fishermen did well.

A lot of Natives came to the cannery here to work,they are still here they will be going back to their homes in a week.

I made a visit to Hoonah,just before I came down and saw Rev.Bromley, He seemed to be in good health.Bromley,told me that he hasn't heard word from you as to the appointments of the Lay-Workers.I came down just the same.I hope that you will let me know if you still want me on the field.

In one of your letters you stated that you were mailing some report blanks.I never did get the blanks.The package may have been lost in the mail.I do hope that you will mail some to this field.I would also like to get a copy of "The Presbyterian Plan Book" for the coming year.The book has been such a help in arranging my program.

I pray that the Lord will bless you and your family.

Sincerely yours,

George R. Bette

Petersburg,Alaska
Sept.14,1942

Dr.Everett B.King
Board of National Missions
ofthe Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America
156 Fifth Ave,
New York,N.Y.

Dear Mr.King:

Inclosed is the signed voucher for the month of May.Sa yet I haven't received the report blanks.I wrote and told you last June that I was all out of the blanks,I also wrote that just as soon as I got the blanks I will be mailing you the report for the month of May.

I know that the Board asks me to stay for seven months,but please do not misunderstand me,for coming here early and getting right in the work for you know that the work must keep agoing.If the work is left for any lenght of time things gets from bad to worse.I spend ten months here last year.And if all is well I will spend the same this year.There is always a lot to do.People come and go just about every day.Samuel Johnson and his family spend a week here after we came.They are now back at Angoon,

We have had a lot of Kake people here after the fishing season.I am sorry to say that there is a lot of drinking going on all over.It so happens after the fishing season.That is one reason I like to come here early.Our people here has been pretty good.I am sorry to say that liquor has taken the lives of six of our natives since the frist of Sept.one in Hoonah,two in Sitka,and three in Kake.Elder Lawrence Paul, has also been called to his Heavenly home.I know you knew Lawrence,for he attende the Presbytery,at Sitka,he is of Kake,(He didn't die of drinking) I know that Kake has had a great loss by loosing Mr Paul.His wife was over here for a few days.

What about finishing our living quaters here.It will need some lumber, paper and painting.However,if there is no way of getting money for same we can get along very nicely.

I want to thank you for your encouraging letter,yes,we"can do all things through Christ"who strengthens us.Thank God for that.We are alright here in Alaska,the Lord is with us.May God bless you.

Sincerely,

George R. Betts

September 21, 1942

AIRMAIL

Rev. Mr. George R. Betts
Petersburg, Alaska

Dear Brother George:

I have your letter dated September 14th and note with a great deal of encouragement that you are already back in Petersburg doing the work of Our Lord and it is certainly a source of satisfaction to have such a faithful and loyal soul as you in service.

I was deeply grieved to read of the death of Elder Louis Paul. I have a vague recollection of meeting him but cannot place him in my mind.

I do not see any possibility for this year to find any additional money for your living quarters as badly as you need these quarters. I am sorry to have to make this negative report.

Enclosed you will find a check for $85.70 to take care of an additional month's salary from September 15th to October 15th. The Board is more than glad to make this additional contribution.

The vouchers that you have asked for have been sent and I hope will reach you shortly.

Cordially yours,

EBK:McE
Enc. check $85.70

Petersburg,Alaska
Oct.29,1942

Dr.Everett B.King
Board of National Missions,
156 Fifth Ave.
New York,N.Y.

Dear Mr.King:

I am so sorry that I have been so slow in answering your letters,one does not know when a boat is coming,but that is no reason one should not write.

I want to thank you and the Board for the check.I felt very much ashamed of myself when I got the check.I sure felt just as though I was trying to impose on you and the Board.However it came in very handy.Thanks.

I want to thank you also for your good letter.Please do not think me a valuable worker.We all are just trying our littlest best to serve our Lord.There is so much to do.And a lot more to do here with my own people in Alaska.We are loosing about two of our Native men a month, through drinking,another Kake,man got drowned last week.He got on a drunk and fell over board and left a big family.This happens to be the eighths since the frist of Sept.We have more to do now then ever before.

I want to thank you also for the offer you made as a full time worker. Frist I would like to tell you that Mrs.Betts and I are working all the time.I think we do more work in the summer out around the canneries then we do in the winter.

Here is how things go at a cannery.Say Monday morning sometime in June I will start to work for some cannery,about Friday a bout would come in and ask me to go with them to so and so who is sick,well you know how it is,I'd go to the Supt.and ask leave,I may came back for Mondays work and then I would get a call from Angoon,or some where to conduct a funeral,I would ask leave again,then I may get a call on a radio phone telling about one that has to be taken into a doctors care and would ask if I would be willing to take him or her in,sure of I'd go.Well, just what would you do if you was the boss of a cannery and a man being called away from work once or twice aweek.I know I wouldn't like it.Well that is just the way things goes with me.But Mr.King,we enjoy it.

I borrowed $2800.00 last year to rebuild my boat.I was given five years to pay it back in.I was able to bay back jst half the last fishing season.If I do as good next season I will be able to clear the loan.I just have to fish from the 15th of July to the 20th of August.I could get some one to run the boat for me but,then I could not do as good.I am sure I will clear the bill next year.However,durring those days one will not do mush of anything for every able boded person is usualy working.
I saw

I saw some of our workers were working durring that period.Since the war we are all saked to work when ever we get the time to work.

You can use your own judgement about the offer.You see I never had the time to carry out a Vacation Bible school.If I could be on the field until the frist of fifteenth of July,I could be able to have two or three Bible schools.I could go to the cannery and hold the school there and could take in two or three schools before fishing.That is at two or three different canneries,since I have the boat.It seems kind of strangx that I go to Hood Bay eight miles from Angoon to work while Brother Sam Johnson leaves there and go about forty miles away to fish and work.

As for the salary I wil leave that to you also.I just want to tell you that it is mush cheaper to live at a Village then to live in a town, where one has to pay a light bill of $12 or $14 a month for lights and water.At an Indian village the light bill is about $1.50,here fuel is about $12.00 and at a village I use to get wood.I am not asking for more I can always get by.

Most of our people have gone south,some of our Natives went south to take up farming.Last week eight of our Sundayschool boys and girls left for Washington.It sure seem strange.But I think others will be coming in.

Sincerely yours

George R. Betts

Inventory of Church owned furnishings

14	benches, fair	each, at $5.00, total	$70
20	chairs, "	" " 1.50	30
3	large tables for church dinners	3.00	9
7	small " " " "	1.00	7
1	Pulpit chair, good		4.50
1	organ, fair,		30
1	piano, good		125
1	oil stovehaater, good bought by Board		100

Inventory of Manse Board owned equipment

1	Bath room set including hot water tank	150.00
1	oil range, good	100
1	oil heater, good	65
1	ketchin sink, good	40
1	bedsted and springs, good	10
1	set of windows and frames, new, to be used when manse is fixed	25

Petersburg, Church and Manse equipment.

November 19, 1942

AIR MAIL

Mr. George R. Betts,
Petersburg, Alaska

Dear Brother Betts:

Thank you for your letter of October 29. I always appreciate hearing from you and enjoy reading about the good work that you are doing. At the present time I cannot make you a definite offer as to the salary that we will pay. I shall work on this matter and as soon as possible will give you some definite information.

Thank you for sending me an inventory of the Church and Manse furnishings.

Cordially yours,

EBK:mk

Petersburg,Alaska
Dec.1,1942

Dr.Everett B King
Board of National Missions
New York,N.Y.

Dear Mr.King:

Your letter of Nov.19, at hand.Thank you for your good letter.Please understand that I am not asking for more money,I can get along very nicely with what I get.So just forget the matter.There are a lot more men on our fields,and may be are short we must think of them also,here in Alaska we get fish,clams and what not all free,I get them just for the catching it.So just forget it.

I would like to write more but the mail will be going out in just about fifteen minutes and it is sure a long time between mail boats,sometimes it is two weeks before we can get mail in and out.

Inclosed is a money order from our Church and Sundayschool.$17.50 is from our church and for the National Missions,and $4.50 is a thanksgiving off ering from our Sundayschool and is also for the National Missions.

Ever thing is just about the same,lot of Petersburg people are still leaving for the states.forty more are leaving today for the South.

Say,Mr.King,I wonder if you could get me a small thin pocket Testment a good one,have it mailed c.o.d.or you can buy one and send me the bill I have been trying to get one for a long time.I ordered twice from our book store but each time I was send a thick one.

Sincerly yours.

George R. Betts

December 15, 1942

AIR MAIL

Mr. George R. Betts,
Petersburg, Alaska

Dear George:

I have your money order in the amount of $21.00, but the money order does not check up with your letter of December 1, in which you ask for credit to be given to the Church for $17.50, and to the Sunday School for $4.50. This makes a total of $22.00. Your money order was only for $21.00 . We have deducted the amount from the $17.50 in order to match your money order. If you have made a mistake and have additional money to send in, that can be taken care of.

I am sending you via mail a new testament that I hope will reach you in good shape. You will accept this little Testament as a gift, and I trust you will be able to make some real use of it.

Brother Bromley has reported that he had a fine visit with you, and that your work was going nicely. I was not at all surprised at this report, but was glad to get it.

Cordially yours,

EHK/mk

Petersburg,Alaska
Feb.27,1943

Dr.Everett B.King,
National Missions of the
Presbyterian Church,U.S.A.
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York,N.Y.

Dear Mr.King:

Another year is coming to an end.It seems that weare just getting started and here it is the end of February.Time sure went fast this winterJust what has been done the past year?Well,some times one trys and do a lot and when one looks over the year it seems as though nothing has been done.

We have had one of the coldest winters I have ever known,we had to have all the fires going in all the stoves all the time for three weeks,we burned just about five hundard gallons of oil that is stove oil,four loads of wood and twenty five gallons of coal oil.We are having Spring weather right now and I do hope that it keeps up.

There has been so much to do,there has been a lot of sickness this winter.Right after Christmas,just about all the children and some of our grown ups got the measles.a lot of the smaller children died of it and then came the flue and colds,but now things are going well.

I started a Week Day Bible class,I got in good with a lot of our Roman Catholic friends.Just as things were going well,an out standing man.A great leader of our people.(A Catholic) asked to join our Church.Rev.Judd happened to visit us the very day,so we called a session meeting and toke the man in. Now you can just gess what happened.The children were stopped from attending the class.So it goes

The people were going and coming as usual.We have had a very nice winter.New Families are moving in.Two families moved here from Klawock,I understand ther will be more moving in.The Klawock families bought homes here.

Our Sunday School is doing well this year.Inclosed is a money order for 6.50 Lincoln Day Offering.Our Church is also sending $13 to our National Board.There are two money orders this time. The two Money orders totals 19.50

I want to thank you for the small New Testament that you send me it is just what I wanted and I am making a lot of use of it.I was wondering who sended the "Alaska under Arms" Yes I think it made a great reaction on our Community.Some of the women of our Church

Church came and made a good clean up around their homes and around the Church.That was done after reading about our slums in our Native districts.So the book done that much.

We are just beginning to feel that we are at war since just about all our young men are gone to the training camps.It sure feels odd and strangenot to see our young men around.We have eight women and two men in our choir now.

I do hope that you will be able to come up this Spring.And if you do come I want you to finish that fishing trip we were going to take at Sitka.We can start right here at Petersburg,for there are a lot of fish here.We will be praying that a way will open up so that you will make a trip to Alaska this Spring.

Twenty of us went to Wrangell,to Attend services Sunday the 14th. we sure enjoyed the visit at Wrangell.I am glad that the Judds are there.They are sure a fine couple,the people there likes them. Monday the 22nd. Rev.Bily,and boys from the Sheldon Jackson School payed us a visit.We had a Communion service Monday evening and had a goodturn out.I was in hopes that they would stay longer so we could have our annual Congreational meeting and get things fixed up,but they had to move on,so we will have to have an ordained man to visit us before the meeting of Presbytery.I understand that it so happened at Kake also.

I want to thank the Board for the gift of money that was made to the workers.I sure will make use of mine.You see I forgot all about my Income tax.I was patting myself an tha back for paying all I made on the Old Boat and did not think anything about my Income tax,but I am sure trying to get the two ends to meet.I think I will do so.I did not know that I made so much money.

Well,I will tell you more when you come up in the Spring. And may God grant and help us to win a peaceful war.And may His Love rule the world and our hearts.God bless and help you in your great work for Him.

Sincerely yours,

George R. Betts

March 8, 1943

AIR MAIL

Mr. George R. Betts
Petersburg, Alaska

Dear George:

Thank you for your good letter of February 27, with the two money orders enclosed, one for $6.50 for Lincoln Day Offering and $13.00 to be credited to our National Board of Missions. Please express to your fine people our appreciation for these gifts at this time.

I am not yet ready to say definitely what will happen about my proposed trip to Alaska. I am still trying to make it possible for me to visit some of the fields. You may be sure that if the plan materializes that I shall be most willing and glad to finish that fishing trip that we were going to take at Sitka. I still have a keen sense of disappointment in my heart when I think of the time in Sitka that we were not able to go out together.

I am glad that you feel that Mr. and Mrs. Judd are fitting into the work at Wrangell. I thought they would, but am glad to get your opinion.

May the Lord continue to bless you and use you in the building of his Kingdom.

Cordially yours,

EBK/mk

April 27, 1943

AIR MAIL

Rev. Mr. George R. Betts
Petersburg, Alaska

Dear George:

Word has come to me that the Presbytery ordained you at the last meeting. I am hastening to send this letter of congratulation to you. There is no other higher honor that could come to you than that which has come with the hands of the Presbytery being placed upon your head and with you being set aside as a chosen vessel for the Lord. In your case it was necessary for the Presbytery to make an exception in order to ordain you. You do not have the educational qualifications for ordination, but due to your consecrated life, and your years of fruitful service for Him the Presbytery was perfectly justified in making the exception. I am more than happy that this honor has been bestowed upon you.

In the days to come, of course, you will be the same George Betts, and yet you will not be the same George Betts, - you cannot be. After receiving the ordination you must have an added sense of your responsibility to the Lord. Be assured of this, that I am proud of you George, and I have constantly remembered you in my prayers. I shall continue to do so, and as you write another chapter of your life, may the good Lord in his bountiful goodness provide for you and wisely direct you.

In Mr. Bromley's recommendation to the Presbytery, he recommends that we buy the property next door to the Petersburg Church at a cost of $800.00. I feel confident that this will go through. I have made the request to the Board for this amount of money, and just as soon as I have an official okay, I will wire you to proceed.

Remember me to your family, and please know that I have joy in my heart over your ordination. At your convenience, and the sooner the better, I wish you would send me a full story of your life, telling me about your early background, the decision you made to

go into the Christian religion, and also the decision to give yourself in full time service to the Lord. Any other interesting comments that you can give about yourself will be greatly appreciated. If you do not have a good clear picture of yourself, please go to the local photographer there in Petersburg and have one made. Tell him that you will want it for a cut. He will know what kind of picture to make. Send this along with your article. This article should be 1500 to 2000 words.

Cordially yours,

EHK/mk

Box 67
Petersburg, Alaska
April 29, 1943

Rev. Everett B King D.D.
156 Fifth ave
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. King:

Here it is Spring again and it will soon be time for our friends to go out to the diffrent fishing camps.

Looking back to the work, one does not seem to see what was done. it seem to be the same old story, However, last month we had four that take a stand for The Master the four joined our Church Easter, a fifth also claimed our Lord as his Saviour. The Man mentioned was a man that had no intrest at all in Spiritual Things but on his sick bed the man was changed.

We planned for a big Easter, but Easter being so late and the halibut season opening the 15th of April. The fleet came in the 24th. so all the men had to work in the cold storage all day Easter.

I got your wire about the house, but you

Childrens Day 1943

see the house belongs to three youngsters and one of the boys is out Maybe in the Army and a deed could not be gotten so we just have to see how it comes out.
Enclosed is a Money order for the sum of $17.00 I hope I do not make another mistake $11.00 will go for the National Missions from our Church. $3.00 goes to Foreign missions from our Sunday School. $3.00 goes to National Missions from our Sunday School. You see last year Frances was in the hospital on Childrens Day, and I was out on the Young peoples Conference trip. When I got back most of the Children were already out. So Frances wants to be sure that her Sunday School gets in on their Childrens Day offering. I am sorry that we put you to a lot of work by sending you our Contributions. But we save on Money order fee by send just one Money order.
I am planning to leave here sometime in June, I think I will go to Chatham, I pished there year before last.
God be with you and your family
Sincerely, George R. Betts.

May 11, 1943

AIR MAIL

Rev. Mr. George R. Betts
Box 67
Petersburg, Alaska

Dear Reverend Mr. Betts:

You notice now that I am addressing you as Reverend Mr. Betts, and I am doing so with a great deal of personal pride and satisfaction. I do not know of anything that has happened in Alaska recently that has been more encouraging to me than your ordination.

Thank you for your money order of $17.00. According to your request, $11.00 of this was applied on National Missions from the Petersburg Church, $3.00 was sent to Foreign Missions from your Sunday School, and $3.00 was applied on Children's Day Offering for 1943 from your Sunday School. I think you were correct in your figures this time.

I hope that you will have a successful fishing trip, and that it may be the last one that you will engage in. Now that you are ordained, I feel that we ought to make plans to use you full time in our work in Alaska. After this summer, perhaps we can work out the final arrangements in order that it will not be necessary to spend any time in the summer fishing. I am sure that you would like this plan, and know that it would be helpful in carrying on the work.

Cordially yours,

EBK/mk

JOHN GEORGE DAVID PHILLIPS FRANK BOOTH AMY HOLLINGSTAD JEANNETTE PHILLIPS

THLINGET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GEORGE R. BETTS, PASTOR

PETERSBURG, ALASKA

May 19, 1943

Dr. Everett B. King
156 Fifth Ave.
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. King:

I received your letter of April 27th. I want to thank you for your very good and encouraging letter and for all the nice things said. Yes, it was the greatest day to me when the Presbytery of Alaska ordained me. I am still speechless and I know that it was a great honor. I want to thank you for your congratulations. I see now what a responsibility I undertook for the Master. I know that you are and will be praying for me.

In this next couple paragraphs you will read the story of my whole life.

I belong to a Clan called the Ka-kawn-ton of the Sitka Thlingets. Uncles were responsible for the training of all the children. As an Indian I respected the ways of our tribe. I was reared in Sitka taking orders from my uncles. At the age of twelve, I entered the Sitka Training School where I received some Christian training but was a pretty bad boy. At this school there was a teacher by the name of Miss. Ada Hogan. Miss. Hogan was a godly woman who took interest in me and tried to talk to me about going to the States to study and later study for the ministry. Just at this time Miss. Hogan had to leave Alaska owing to poor health. While in the States she made arrangements for me to attend a school in Springfield, Mass. She send my fare and told me to come down. As an Indian I had to get permission from my great uncle. When I asked him; he called me by my Indian name- "Uskoak, you are going to do an unwise thing. We need you here. Just who is going to stay and take care of our tribe houses after we are dead? Please do not go." I answered, "Yes, uncle, I promise, I will stay." So I wrote and told Miss. Hogan that I could not come down. She wrote and told me that she'd be praying for me and that she felt the Lord's need of me. Later, when it was too late for me to accept the offer, nearly all my uncles and great uncles joined the Presbyterian Church.

After thinking this matter over I decided to stay a real old fashioned Indian. I left and stayed with some of my old people. While with them I learned their ways of thinking and doing things. I drifted away from the Lord a very unhappy man. I did this because it was our custom to please the members of our house.

THLINGET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GEORGE R. BETTS, PASTOR

PETERSBURG, ALASKA

After spending two years out in the woods I came to Douglas, Alaska, where I met a young woman from Angoon. A year later we were married. Afterwards I told her what my plans were. I came to find that she was a strong follower of the Lord; but I thought I'd have my way. Shortly after this I met one of my uncles who told me that the world was changing and that he belonged to the Presbyterian Church. He wished that I would join the church some day. The great old saint passed on and outstanding Christian. I sank deeper into sin. My wife and I moved to Killisnoo just two miles from Angoon to live. I started drinking and went from bad to worse. I thank God I had a praying mother and a praying wife. Friends pleaded with me but I just did not listen.

The Salvation Army had a place of worship there where I use to go to take in their meetings. This was where I really got converted in 1922. I helped them with the Christian work all I could. Then in 1928 there was a fire which cleaned up all our homes. It was then decided by the people of Killisnoo to move to Angoon and rebuild; however some moved to Sitka, Tenakee and other places. I moved to Angoon.

There was a Presbyterian Church at Angoon which I later joined in 1929. Sam Hohnson was preaching the Gospel there at this time. I at once helped Sam with the Sunday School. In 1930 Rev. George Beck who was in charge of the work at Hoonah was transferred to Ketchikan. Sam Johnson was then asked to take up the work in Hoonah. I was surprised to get a letter from Rev. Webster, asking m me if I would be willing to act as Lay-Pastor of the Angoon church for four months. At this time I had a good paying job. If I took the church I would get only one third of what I was getting at the time. After talking the matter over with Mrs. Betts I answered the letter and told the National Missions Committee that I would take the church for four months. When this four months was up I attended the meeting of Presbytery at Sitka. Then again I was asked by the committee if I would come to Petersburg and take up the work for nine months. We came down the following fall. Since then we have seen many souls saved. In one of our summer meetings at the cannery a filipino boy was saved. The last letter we received from him was from his native Island. He told me he had been ordained by the Church of God. He is now telling his friends of Christ's great love

I am still happy. My sins which were many God forgave through his dear Son, the Blood of Jesus Christ. I know what it is to be down in sin. That is why I want to bring others to Christ. I want them to "taste and see that the Lord is good." I thank God that there are

THLINGET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GEORGE R. BETTS, PASTOR

PETERSBURG, ALASKA

a lot of Christians like Miss Hogan that first pointed me to the Cross. A Miss Susan Davis who prayed with us when we were children in the Sitka Training School and the Board of National Missions and all the friends that made it possible for the school to operate.

Today our triblle houses still stands but are occupied by young Christian menand women.

Surely God answers prayer. For Miss Hogan told me that the Lord needed me and that she would be praying that the Lord would still use me.

Dr. King, you don not know how happy I am. I am happy every day.

Maybe you would be interested to know that Mrs. Betts is a great neice of Kle-ya-keet, that Dr. Young had so much trouble with at Wrangell. Kle-ya-keet, you know was the old Indian doctor in Wrangell from Angoon. The seed that was planted by the Missionary were not in vain.

Inclosed is a picture Rev. Willis R. Booth took of me the day the Presbytery ordained me. I am also sending you two snap shots of my wife, daughter and the grand-daughter. We are dressed in our Indian costumes. The other one is of me in my dancing blanket and Sally in her small dancing blanket in my arms. The two are for you.

May God bless you and the family.

6/1/43

Sincerely yours,

George R. Betts

US Kook

JOHN GEORGE DAVID PHILLIPS FRANK BOOTH AMY HOLLINGSTAD JEANNETTE PHILLIPS

THLINGET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GEORGE R. BETTS, PASTOR

PETERSBURG, ALASKA

June 10 1943

Dr. Everett B. King
156 Fifth Ave
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. King:

I am busy repairing my boat and fixing up things before leaving for the fishing grounds. I will be leaving in a few days.
Before leaving I see to it that all church bills are paid. We have all our bills paid this month. I think June is the best month yet. I only wished I could have stayed longer but it takes a lot of money to live in a town and Spring is the hardest of times.
The insurance of our Church will be up in July inclosed is a money order for $30. which I hope will cover the amount. If it does not cover same I will see to it that it is paid just as soon as I return. If it is too much turn the rest over to the Sunday School offering. My address will be "Chatham, Alaska"

Sincerely yours

George R. Betts

Copy for Dr. King

July 7, 1943

Rev. George Betts
Petersburg, Alaska

Dear George:

Well I hope you are catching your share of the early fish and that your luck will carry all through the season. Have you seen Bob II at the grounds yet? You probably will see her in the course of the summer. Please let me know what she shows up like out there. We tried to do a good job in building her. That engine worked fine on the trial run last Saturday so I don't believe you can figure on Andrew Hope throwing it away!

Dr. King sends the very good word that he is coming to visit the churches in our Presbytery late this Fall. Probably he will bring Jamie Hall's father with him. Andrew Hope is scheduled to be Captain on Bob II for the trip. And Dr. King requests that you be a member of the team. Can you plan on this? I want to urge that you do. So even though you are busy fishing now please send me a postcard when you are tied up some week end. We want to make this Evangelistic Mission a truly great thing for our churches and for our Christ. Let us all work, and plan, and pray that it may become a great blessing for our people.

Yours in His service,

Sincerely,

Chatham Alaska
Aug.24 1943

Dr.Everett B.King
156 Fifth Ave
New York,N.Y.

Dear Mr.King:

As there is a chance to get some mail out today,I thought I would write.

We have just finished up another fishing season,and it happened to be the poorest season in years.The boats just about made expenes There was just no fish when the season was on.I think the season was late,for there is a lot of fish coming in now.

I will be back in Petersburg about the frist of Sept,as yet I haven't heard what the plans are as to wheathe I would be back in Petersburg.

I am sorry that there was a little misunderstanding about the Insuranse of our Church.We thought that every thing was all right, that the insurance was all paid up.However,when I get back I will see if we will be able to raise enough money to cover what is owed.

I would like to get a copy of the Plan Book for the coming year. It is a great help.I will be writing from Petersburg,and tell you more about our summer.

We pray that the Lord bless you and your family,

Sincerely yours

George R. Betts.

September 23, 1943

Rev. George Betts
Petersburg, Alaska.

Dear Brother George:

I have your good letter and am delighted to note that you are willing to give full time of service now to the Church. I think this is a wise decision, since you have received your ordination, and I know that you will be happier by leasing your boat and giving all of your time to the service of Christ.

I am, therefore, offering you a slary, to be paid by the Board, of $1,400.- This money is to be paid in regular monthly payments to you, which will total $116.66 a month. The Board will, of course, pay 8% of your pension premium on this salary, and you will be expected to pay the 3%. By all means you want to keep up the premium payments in order that you may protect yourself and your family.

I do not know how much the local church will raise on your salary, but I am recommending that you present to the congregation at Petersburg a challenge for them to raise at least $10 a month. If the church can and will do this, then the church should pay 8% of this amount on your pension dues. You, in turn, will then pay the 3% on the amount that the church gives you for a salary.

Please present this to the officers and then let me know the decision.

Rev. A.B. Keeler is on his way to Alaska. He is going to spend a month in southeast Alaska on board the SJS-2. You will remember Dr. Keeler from several years ago, when he visited Alaska, and I know that you will enjoy and appreciate the fellowship with him.

Cordially yours,

EBK:S

Session

JOHN GEORGE DAVID PHILLIPS FRANK BOOTH AMY HOLLINGSTAD JEANNETTE PHILLIPS

THLINGET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GEORGE R. BETTS, PASTOR

PETERSBURG, ALASKA

October 4 1943

Brf 67

Dr.Everett B.King
Board Of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York,N.Y.

Dear Mr King:

I got your good letter of September 23,I,am taking the offer you gave me.I will also take up the matter with the session at our next meeting. I know that the session will be willing to give something towards a workers salary,but we have the meeting of Presbytery on our hands and our Church has all it can do to raise enough to entertain the visitors to be. I am sorry to say that our Shrimp cannery went up in smoke just about an hour ago.You see that will have a lot or all of our Natives out of work for awhile.A lot has been going on here the last week, and we sure have been busy.

M.O. Oct 7/43 Rec'd Mail H.O. Wendel

Inclosed is a money order for 25.50 to cover the rest of the insurance for our Church.I know that you will see to it that the right party gets it.We are sorry that it was not attended to,but,we just did not hear about it,or we would have tended to it.The Church thought it was all payed for.However I am glad it will be tended to at this time.

We are looking forward to the visit of Rev.A.B.Keller and I do hope that he will enjoy the trip and I know the Lord will bless the work through his visit.

Sincerely yours,

George R. Betts

December 24, 1943

AIR MAIL

The Rev. George Betts
Petersburg, Alaska

My dear Mr. Betts:

When Dr. Keeler was in Alaska he made arrangements for you to go forward with the repairs on the manse at Petersburg, and also made some provision for furniture for it. The Board has appropriated a sum of $350.00 covering these matters, and we have forwarded the check to the Rev. Willis R. Booth so that the money will be in hand when the bills begin to come in. We trust this will give you a comfortable home as you go forward in this new field of service.

We have also sent to Mr. Booth the sum of $45.00 to cover three months rent on the manse pending the clearance of the deed to the property. We understand that this is to be applied on the purchase price when the deed is cleared and transferred to us.

We hope that you are getting settled both in the house and in your Church work. We trust the Lord will bless you in this new ministry and will reward your efforts in his service. I hope to have the privilege before another year elapses of visiting you in your work.

Sincerely yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ/mk

JAN 19 1944

Petersburg Alaska
January 5,1944

The Rev.J.Earl Jackman
Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Churchin the
U.S.A.
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York 10 N.Y.

Dear Mr.Jackman:

I get your two letters the other day.One stating the two hundard dollar grant and the other $350 that the Board appropriated towards the repairs of the Mance.

I want to congratulate you for the great wok you have uktaken fot the Master I know it is rather a hard place but that is just where the Lord needs us. I am looking forward towards a blessing the coming year,Yes,I would like to see you make a trip to Alaska.Beleive it or not,we had a green Christmas this year.We have just about one half inch of snow on the ground now.So I can asure you that you will not freeze when you come up.

We had a good start this year.We had the biggest attendance that I ever saw at our Night Watch meeting.14 seeked and excepted Christ and two out of the 14 joined dur church.I know they really mean't it.

A lot of our Native people are moving into our community since the war,from other villages.Not all are Presbyterians,but we worship togather.We have a Roman Catholic Church working with our Natives,&lot of them belong but, a Priest comes here about once a month,so some of their members come and worship with us.

I am fixing up the Manse.it needs a lot of repair.However,I am glad that we are getting it.It is right next to our Church and there has been a lot of drinking going on in it.Fights and what not.I think there has been some boot lagging going from it.That is one reason I wanted the Board to get it.Things are quiet now since we took it over.I rewall papered the rooms and also painted what needed painted.

Well,Mr.Jackman,How is CHIEF KEELER ? Maybe Dr.Keeler did not tell you all that we made him our Chief." Chief Shock-shanie-Ish"

May the Lord whom we serve Bless you and help you in your great work

Sincerely yours,

George R. Betts

1944

Petersburg,Alaska
Jan.17,1944

Rev.Willis R.Booth
Juneau,Alaska.,

Dear Mr.Booth:

I am sorry that I did not get my report out sooner,but,I have been down with the flu and the doctor had to put me to bed.I am feeling much better.I felt it coming on just before Christmas but there was nothing I could do but just fight it and do the best I can.However, I think we all had a pretty good Christmas.

The work here is going just fine,there are a few more turning out for Church services.We had fourteen conversions last month and three more last Sunday.Of all the years I have been here this has never happened.

I had to get a lot of things for the house.I think I told you in one of my letters,that there was not a thing left all the shelfs and all dish coverts were all taken out.No window shades no curtains.I had to get all.I got some lumber also to make shelves.I will try and send you all the bills.I just can't find them all now.However,I am glad the house was gotten.There has been a lot of drinking going on in the house I think there has been a lot of bootlegging going on in it also.Now things is sure quiet around here.

When we visited Kake with the preaching Mission,Mr.Yaw,promised the Kake Church that I will pay them a visit.The Elders of the Kake Church asked me to come over right after New Years,I did not go because I think it should be approved by the members or the Chairman of our National Missions.I promised them to ack just as soon as I hear from you.So let me know what you think of it.Mr.Yaw,wrote and in his letter he thought I should pat at least to visits to Kake.Mr.Dugaga was over here and spend a week end.He took charge the Sunday he was here.

Some one told me that there was a piano in a music store there a small type.If there is one there for sale and a small type please let us know.

Inclosed is five dollars a Christmas offering for Foreign Missions it is our Sunday School offering.The order is made out to Clarence A. Steele.I hope it is the right party.

Sincerely yours,

February 2, 1944

VIA AIRMAIL

The Rev. George R. Betts
Petersburg, Alaska

My dear Mr. Betts:

First of all may I express to you and your wife our deepest sympathy in the loss of your step-father. We received information concerning this from Samuel Johnson at Hoonah. These breaks in the family circle will come and the Lord gives us strength to go forward through them in our Christian faith.

We congratulate you upon your fine report concerning the increased activity as you have opened the program at Petersburg for this winter. Evidently you can look forward to a good year in your Church work there.

We appreciate the fact that you are doing so much to put the manse in good condition for yourself and your family. The residence of our missionary in this manse certainly should bring to it a very much better atmosphere than it has had in the past. We trust that it may be the center of a fine spiritual ministry for the people which will uplift them all in connection with the Church program.

"Chief Keeler" is not at headquarters at the present time but I understand that his health is good. He did not tell us that you had made him your Chief. Sometimes we have to learn about these things from the field.

We trust the Lord will bless you in your important service among your people and I shall be happy to have the privilege some day in the future of visiting with you in your work.

Sincerely yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

MAR 23 1944

Petersburg, Alaska
March, 13, 1944

Alaska 1

Dr. J. Earl Jackman
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York, City New York.

Dear Mr. Jackman:

I want to thank you for your letter of sympathy, owing to death of my step-father, he was more then a father to me but he being a strong follower of Christ gives me great comfort. It was so nice of you to give me the words of comfort.

I just have to get busy and write some letters, I just figure that I have so much to do and keep putting off writing.

We are going to have the meeting of Presbytery, held here this Spring and it sure takes a lot of work to get things ready, I am busy from day light until dark and then I do not see what I do I do not seem to get anything done.

We are looking forward to your visit, word has been going around that you are planning to be here for the meeting of Presbytery, we sure will be more then glad to see you come.

I was asked by some of our men to go and visit the Kake Church, I was over there the last of last month. I was so gald to see the work that our Lay-worker. Mr. Duquga is doing over there. I stayed over the week end. The Sunday I spend there two persons got converted one woman and a young man. It is nice to see our young men starting out in life a Christian, I am sure that the Lord is blessing the work there.

No doubt you know that our great problem here is the liqueur quistion Just as soon as there is a lot of money made our Natives seem to start drinking. Last week one of our Native young man from Klawock walked right of the dock while drunk and drown, the very next day a small boat came in from Juneau the man and wife (natives) started a drinking party on the boat and early in the morning the boat got on fire, the wife was so drunk that she could not get out of the cabin of the boat, the Coast Gaurd men and firemen where down there but the woman burned to death. Oh, if we could only get rid of liqueur what a change it would make with our natives. We have a great job on our hands. Pray for our Natives, I know you do.

We got all the furniture for the manse now and we sure like it, Mrs Betts and myself thank you all for getting the furniture, the manse sure needed the furniture.

Inclosed is the form I filled it out as much as I could hope it is alright If there is more let me know and I will see to it that it will be filled out.

Now Doctor, please bare in mind that we will be looking for you at the Meeting of Presbytery,

George R. Betts

MAY 3 1944

Petersburg,Alaska
April 27,1944

Rev.Earl Jackman
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave New York,N.Y.

Dear Mr.Jackman:

I hope that you got home safe after your long and hard trip,we sure injoyed your visit to our Alaskan fields.I know you got pretty tired before you got home.It sure was guiet after the members of Presbytery and Presbyterial left our town.I will say again that we all fell that God has blessed us all through ypur visit.

Things are just about the same here,the fishermen are still in as they are not satisfied with the fish prices I hope that things will be ~~xxit~~ settled before long.

I asked you while here if there would be any chance of going to work at a cannery or going out fishing.If it is alright with you I would like to get two months off.July and August,durring these months the people are very busy working at the salmon canneries.A lot of our people go out of town to work in the canneries.If I go out I know that I will be able to do more at a cannery for I can hold a Vacation Bible School at the canneries.I am asking the two months with out my salary.I suppose that I will not be intitled to my months vacation but that will be alright.I owe three thousand dollars on my boat.I got part of the loan before~~x~~ I knew that I will be ordained and as it is now I just can't get a crew owing to the shortage of men.

I would like to hear from you on the matter as soon as you can.

Sincerely yours,

George R. Betts

May 3, 1944

VIA AIRMAIL

The Rev. George B. Betts
Box 67
Petersburg, Alaska

Dear George:

I want to express my gratitude to you, your wife, and your people for a very fine visit at Presbytery in your Church and community. All of you were most hospitable and did everything possible to make our stay a very pleasant experience.

It gives me a good deal of joy and pardonable pride to exhibit the beautiful fountain pen which was presented to me by the Session of your Church. It will be a lifetime reminder of my visit with you.

Our Board met last Thursday and Friday and they called upon Dr. Keeler, Miss Voss, and me to give reports on our visit to Alaska. Every place we turn people are asking us about the country and especially about our Churches and workers there. You may be sure your ears should be burning frequently because we are talking about you many times. You will be interested to know that I was able to get through the Board the full list of repairs as far as I had a record of them that we made at the meeting of the National Missions Committee. You had asked for a new oil stove for the Church and the understanding was that your congregation would pay half and the Board would pay half. I now have the appropriation available from the Board whenever you are ready to get the stove. Inasmuch as you had expended yourselves to gather together to entertain Presbytery you may not feel like trying to raise additional funds until Fall but whenever you are ready let me know and our part of it up to $90 will be available.

Give my greetings to all your people and my hearty thanks for a fine experience.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

May 4, 1944

VIA AIRMAIL

The Rev. George R. Betts
Petersburg, Alaska

Dear George:

Your letter of April twenty-seventh with your request for the two months off during July and August has just arrived. I recognize your difficulty on account of the mortgage on your boat and of your need to do something about it during the summer.

You are entitled to one month's vacation with pay which you would normally take during the month of August. Ordinarily we have no right to tell you what you may or may not do during that month except that it should be for rest, relaxation, and possible study to get yourself ready for next winter's work. If you choose to do some physical labor during that time it might do as much good for you as anything else toward your fall and winter program.

As to the month of July, I would need to present this request to the Cabinet of Missionary Operation which does not meet again until early June. The final answer from that body might be too late for you to make your arrangements. I feel the action would be that if you are to be away from your field entirely during that month I would recommend to the Cabinet that you be on leave during that month without salary, or if you are going to work out at Petersburg and you will keep your services going I could recommend that you be given permission to work and receive one-third or one-half salary during that time.

We want to cooperate as far as we can without too much detriment to the work of your Church. If you are away during that time we trust you will make arrangements to continue your Sunday school for those who will be left in the community and perhaps additional arrangements for preaching services during part of the time.

Sincerely yours,

J. Earl Jaskman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

SEP 13 1944

Petersburg,Alaska
May 17,1944

Rev.V.J.Swanson
Hyderburg,Alaska

Dear Verne:

Inclosed is the report for the month.The work here is about the same Owing to the tie up of the fishing fleet most of the fishermen are in port yet.The trollers are going out tonight,I think the flat fish fishermen will be going out the end of the week.Just about all the Kake fishermen go out halibut fishing.

Have you heard what Rev.Booth done with the money which the Board send to Juneau for this church?I got a lot of things,I use to send the bills to Booth at Juneau,and he paid the bills.If it is still in Juneau,and if Booth still has chargs I will send the repair bills to him.The money for the rent was send to him also as the owner is at Juneau,I mean the owner of the house.

I wrote and asked the Board to see if I could not be let of for the summer.Dr.Jackman told me that he will find out after the meeting of a committee in June.I think if they knew how things are in Alaska they would close more of our churches.I asked the members of our session if they thought it was worth while to keep the work going through the summer.They told me that it was hardly worth the while to keep our church services durring the months of July and August. I sure would like to stay on but that is just the way it is.Rev. Knudson,told me that it was just impossible to have his services durring July and August,He works ate the cannery durring those months

Well,I suppose that you are pretty busy with your new boat,I wish I could be there to see it lunched.

Best wishes to you and Mrs Swanson and all of you.

Sincerely yours

Geo. R. Betts

JOHN GEORGE DAVID PHILLIPS FRANK BOOTH AMY HOLLINGSTAD JEANNETTE PHILLIPS

JUN 3 1944

THLINGET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GEORGE R. BETTS, PASTOR

PETERSBURG, ALASKA

June 1 1944

Rev.J.Earl Jackman,D.D.
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave
New York,N.Y.

Dear Mr.Jackman:

I am glad to know that you got back home safe and that you enjoyed your trip to our part of the country,and you can be sure that we enjoyed your visit.We all feel that we have been greatly blessed by meeting you.

Things are again on the move,you see while you was here the fishermen were all tied up,they wanted more for their fish they were tied up for about a month.Ten days ago the fleet went out.(That is the hulabit fishermen)

Lot of our Natives are moving away for the summer by the first of July,they won't be very many left.I told the Session that I may be in for the rest of the summer.They told me that they would like to see me in but when the canneries open up there will be all out fishing,working Sundays and late at night,so if there is no one attending the services I must keep from getting mad.

Last fall I had a crew to take my boat out so I said that I would stay the year around,but since then three of my men went into the Armed Forces and that leaves my boat with out a crew. It takes six men to fish a boat of my size of my boat.But could get along with four if one has to.The problem here in Southeastern Alaska is altogather different from other places.For two months after the canneries start every one is at work as I said before.Rev Knudson,of the Luthern Church of this town found that out too.He works in the cannery durring those busy months I think this should be considered by the Board.Of course there are places like Hoonah,and may be Juneau where there are people all the summer through.Hoonah,is one field where a worker should be kept I think,for a lot of fishing boats goes into Hoonah to get gass on Sundays I have seen as much as 60 boats staying over Sunday there.

JOHN GEORGE DAVID PHILLIPS FRANK BOOTH AMY HOLLINGSTAD JEANNETTE PHILLIPS

THLINGET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GEORGE R. BETTS, PASTOR

PETERSBURG, ALASKA

The work here is going on fine.I will see just how many of our children are going to stay before I start a Vacation Bible School just as soon as school was out just about all our native children moved out of town.

I asked you about a set of "The Pulpit Commentry" I wish you could pick me up a set for I am sure I will be able to get a lot of help from a set.

Well,Dr.Jackman,if the committee thinks I should stay on the fied I will stay but,I told you already how things are and they are real facts.

Sincerely yours,

George R. Betts

June 15, 1944

The Rev. George H. Betts
Petersburg, Alaska

My dear Mr. Betts:

Your communication of June first was received in the absence of Mr. Jackman who is away from the office on a field trip. A copy of your letter was forwarded to him for his information.

Word was received from Mr. Jackman this morning with instructions to advise you that if most of your people leave this summer and you feel you ought to take your boat out during July and August that you should go ahead with your plans. We shall try to arrive at a better solution of this problem another year. May we ask you to please let us know definitely about your plans so that we may adjust your salary accordingly? We shall await a reply from you in reference to these matters.

Mr. Jackman further states that he will look around for a set of Pulpit Commentary for you in accordance with your wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Frieda Koerner, Secretary to
J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

FK
VIA AIRMAIL

June 28, 1944

VIA AIRMAIL

The Rev. George R. Betts
Box 67
Petersburg, Alaska

Dear George:

Thank you for your interest which prompted you to wire us about the disaster at Hoonah. We deeply regret this experience and have wired Sam Johnson our expression of concern and our desire to do everything possible for the Church and the people of the village.

A letter concerning the approval of your hope for two months off to go fishing has been forwarded to you from the office. We trust that you have received it before this.

I expect to be at the office during most of July and will look around for the set of the Pulpit Commentary for you. I am wondering also if you have or would be interested in having a set of Matthew Henry which is five volumes on the whole Bible. One or two of the other men have asked for these books. I will try to buy these for you at a second-hand bookstore so that the cost will not be so great.

We hope that you will have a good summer. Most of the pictures that I took at Presbytery are very good and they bring back to me the memory of a good visit with your people and the members of Presbytery.

Sincerely yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:PK

JOHN GEORGE DAVID PHILLIPS FRANK BOOTH AMY HOLLINGSTAD JEANNETTE PHILLIPS

THLINGET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GEORGE R. BETTS, PASTOR

PETERSBURG, ALASKA

JUL 8 1944

June 30 1944

Rev.J.Earl Jackman
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York,N.Y.

Dear Mr.Jackman:

After praying over the matter of leaving the field or going out to fish with my boat this year I have desided to stay right here for the summer.I promised last fall to go on a monthly salary bases and I will try and carry out what I undertook.

Last night my boat sailed for the fishing ground with twenty four aboard for the Icy straits fishing grounds.The boat is to be out for two months,Mt son in law will fish the boat with five other men.The rest aboard will get of at Hood Bay to work in the cannery there.Just abput all our Native people have left for the different canneries the last week and the rest will be going the coming week.This will be the frist fishing season I will be in,since 1911.I would like to have my vacation from the 20th of July to the 20th of August,however,I will let you know later.

Next year I ould like to go on a nine months bases I am will to get what our Lay workers get I mean salary they get if the Board will put me back on nine months bases,fo I just got to pay up for the boat and I can never pay up for the boat by paying some one else to run it for me.

Another reason is this.I can do a lot of good by going out with my people in the summer,please bare in mind that just abput all the worst crooks and bootleggers come up to the canneries from the States.They sell liquor and brake up homes ruin our young women.Satan is out full force in the summer.If ever our Native people need Spitural help it is in the summer at the canneries I have always said that I have done more good in the two months time in the summer at the canneries then ten months in the winter months.I wish we had our boat so one of our men could go and visit the different canneries.When will we have our Princeton-Hall back ?

I took a trip to Hoonah,last week,I took a lot of clothes that our members donated for our friends in need there,we also sended $50 to help them.It was sure a hot fire,just about all of Hoonah lies in ashes.Not a thing is left of our Church and manse

May God bless you and your wife,

Sincerely yours George R. Betts

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

1201

SYMBOLS

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EAA69 23 NL=PETERSBURG ALASKA 30 1944 JUL 1 AM 5 22

REV J EARL JACKMAN= NMS

:BOARD OF NATL MISSIONS 156 FIFTH AVE NYK= JUL 1 1944

=GOT A CREW FOR MY BOAT WILL NOT GO FISHING UNLESS SOME OF CREW QUITS TAKING VACATION JULY TWENTY TO AUGUST TWENTY

REGARDS=

GEORGE R BETTS.

314

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

JUL 19 1944

JOHN GEORGE DAVID PHILLIPS FRANK BOOTH AMY HOLLINGSTAD JEANNETTE PHILLIPS

THLINGET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GEORGE R. BETTS, PASTOR

Alaska Pkg

PETERSBURG, ALASKA
July 11,1944

Rev.J.Earl Jackman
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York,N.Y.

Dear Mr Jackman:

Your letter of June 28th,at hand .I am sure you got my wire and letter,I am so sorry to put you to so much trouble,however after praying over the matter I stayed,to see what it is like,I was rather sirprised to see nearly as much attending the Sunday services,but,the fish has not started to run and since I have decided to stay the Officer of the Salvation Army,toke his vacation,he will be gone the whole month of July,So our Church is the only church that is holding services on Sunday right now.

I told you in my other letter that I got a full crew for my boat but,one of the men was called into the Navy since they left yet there are yet five men on board.I rather am ashamed of my self making such a fuss over going out fishing,some what like Peter,going back to his old fish boat when he ought to have been on the job.

I tried hard to have a Vacation Bible School here somehow all our children are out of town,yet I see there is a lot one could do.

Men power is very short here at the cannery,they just got half of a crew here.The boss was up to see me and just begged me to help them out,so I promised him to go to work at the cannery from the middle of this month,so you can have my salary adjusted as such.

I am glad that you will try and pick up the Pulpit Commentary, I have afew sets of commentaries amoung them is the Matthew Henry
I also would like to get a small baptismal bowl,maybe such a thing as you could pick us up a second hand one at some church that has an extra one.I have been trying to get a Stencil Duplicator I ordered one from our Book store,they wrote and told me that they just could not get me one now.I saw an ad.in The Expositor They have a what they call "Print-O-Matic it is a post card size I wonder if you could not phone them up and sak them if they still have some on hand,if so please get one for me and I will send money for it on the return mail.Their address is "The Expositor-East, Aurora,New York.

Sincerely yours,

George R. Betts

JUL 20 1944

JOHN GEORGE DAVID PHILLIPS FRANK BOOTH AMY HOLLINGSTAD JEANNETTE PHILLIPS

THLINGET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GEORGE R. BETTS, PASTOR

PETERSBURG, ALASKA

July,13 1944

Rev.J.Earl Jackman D.D.
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York,N.Y.

Dear Mr.Jackman:

In my last letter I told you that I will be working in the cannery here,and asked you to have my salary adjusted as stated in your letter of May,that if I work here that you would be willing to pay half of my salary.Since I will be working the rest of July starting the 15th,inclosed is a money order for $29.20 that will cover half of half of July.I will still carry on the work here will hold my regularaur services.If there should be a lot of fish on Sundays,I will try and have our services in the evening as Sunday is the hardes day of the week,All the fish comes in Saturday and just has to be canned Sundays.Infact Monday is a day of rest at the canneries.

Sincerely yours,

Geo. R. Betts

July 19, 1944

VIA AIRMAIL

The Rev. George M. Betts
Box 67
Petersburg, Alaska

Dear George:

Thank you for your letter of July eleventh in reward to your situation at Petersburg. We shall follow along as you plan and see how the experiment works out this summer and then make a decision for another year. I believe you will find some work to do in your Church among your people during the vacation period.

In response to your work in the cannery you did not indicate how long it would last but I presume it would not last more than one month. Your salary is not too large so that we shall consider that your month of vacation and let it go this year.

We have made some inquiry concerning a set of the Pulpit Commentary for you. We have found a set of 51 volumes in a New York second hand bookstore. The set is in good condition and the price is $75 on time or $60 cash. We did not want to put out that much money without your approval and we hope it will still be there when we hear from you. Also, there was a set of Matthew Henry of six volumes in good condition for $10 cash. We shall act upon this when we hear from you. You need not pay for it immediately. We would purchase it and have you reimburse us later.

I am not sure that we can get you a baptismal bowl but we shall make a little investigation along this line. We shall also make some inquiry concerning a stencil duplicator for you. If you want the postcard size, I think I can get one very reasonably which will suit your purpose very well. I have a friend who is in this business as a side line and he has some material which can be secured. We shall await your answer before taking any further action in regard to this.

We hope matters will work out in the right way for you during this summer and after the summer is over give us your reaction to the whole problem of a summer program. We will try to cooperate with you in everyway that seems best for you and the work.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

August 7, 1944

The Rev. P. A. Ericson
First Mission Covenant Church
101 Chandler Street
Jamestown, New York

My dear Mr. Ericson:

Thank you for your letter of August third.

You will please find enclosed herewith our check for $25.- for which amount we will please ask you to forward to

The Rev. J. Earl Jackman
Unit of Work in Alaska
156 Fifth Avenue
New York 10, N.Y.
Room 708

the 51 volumes of The Pulpit Commentary which may be expressed to the address given above.

Sincerely yours,

Frieda Koerner, Secretary to
J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

FK
Enc. Ck. 96105-$25.-

AUG 4 1944

First Mission Covenant Church
108 CHANDLER STREET
Jamestown, New York

F. A. ERICSON, Acting Pastor

August 3, 1944.

Frieda Koerner,
Secretary to
J. Earl Jackman,
Secreta ry Unit Work in Alaska
Board of National Missions of
The Presbyterian Church of the U. S.

Dear Miss Koerner:

Am in receipt of your letter regarding the set of The Pulpit Commentary which one of your missionaries in Alaska wants.

Upon leaving Worcester three weeks ago I left the books with the A cting Pastor of the church I served. Sofar as I know the set of books is still available and I shall be glad to have them shipped to you according to your instructions. They are packed in three paper cartons rea dy for shipment by freight, express or any other way you may designate.

Kindly send check to me to the above a ddres s and I shall have the books forwarded to you immediately.

Very sincerely yours,

F. A. Ericson

P. S. The set of books, which is complete, consists of 51 volumes, I believe, instead of 52 as stated in the ad.

July 31, 1944

Mr. P. A. Ericson
65 Wachusett Street
Worcester, Mass.

My dear Mr. Ericson:

We understand that you have a set of The Pulpit Commentary, 52 volumes in good condition for sale per your ad in The Expositor. Are these books still available? If they are may we ask you to reserve them for us and upon an answer from you we will immediately forward you a check for $25.- for these books. One of our missionaries in Alaska is desirous of this set of books and sent us your ad which he say. A prompt reply will be appreciated. May we say, further, we would ask you to send these books to us at the above address and we will take care of the shipping of them to Alaska.

Sincerely yours,

Frieda Koerner, Secretary to
J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

FK

Enc. stamped self-addressed envelope for reply

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE—Set of The Pulpit Commentary, 52 volumes, in good condition. First check for $25.00 takes it. F. A. Ericson, 65 Wachusett St., Worcester, Mass.

FOR SALE: MIMEOGRAPH, New, legal size, Self-Feed. Counter. Burroughs adding machine, 7 column portable. Rev. Geo. Kirgiss, New Ulm, Minnesota.

July, 1944

JUL 31 1944

Petersburg, Alaska
July, 24, 1944

Rev. J. Earl Jackman
156 Fifth Ave
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Jackman:

Thanks for your letter of the 19, We just got Air Mail service coming to our town the last two weeks we get mail from the States twice aday when the weather is right so we are now closer to each other. The other day I got a letter on the 17th that was written the 15th, the letter was from New York.

Yes, I would like to get the set of "The Pulpit Commentary" Attached is an ad. I saw in "The Expositor" I would have send the money but, thought I would be too late, I wish you could get in touch with the party the address is on the inclosed ad. If it is already sold then I wish you could get me the set you spoke about, it is rather a big price but it is worth it, for I sure need a lot of studying and I like the help in those Pulpit Commentaryes.

I will have to work just as long as the canning lasts and that will be the whole month of August. The man power shortage is getting worse every day, the town is calling on all to help out at the cannery, the clerks from the stores and the service men but there is still no fish running.

Just about all the members of our Church are out to the different canneries, I only had five at our service yesterday, you see the cannery's biggest packing day is always Sunday, and the day of rest is Monday. The people will be returning about the frist of September.

Yes, I would like to get a Mineograph I can make a lot of use out of one but then I have to consider the money part of it. If I can get one cheap or say, a post card size I think will answer the work I want done with it let me know in your next letter what it will cost.

Sincerely yours

George R. Betts.

SEP 21 1944

JOHN GEORGE DAVID PHILLIPS FRANK BOOTH AMY HOLLINGSTAD JEANNETTE PHILLIPS

THLINGET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GEORGE R. BETTS, PASTOR

PETERSBURG, ALASKA

Sept.14,1944

Dr.Earl Jackman
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City,N.Y.

Dear Mr.Jackman:

It has been a long time since I wrote and I think that it is about time that I am writing.

Well,it was a poor summer for the fishermen around this district and it was a poor summer for the work,I now know just what a summer is like here.Just about all the members were out of town,they are still out but will be coming in right soon.

I worked here but as I already said that it was a poor season fishing so the cannery did not have much fish to can the cannery here put up 36000 cases of fish where they use to put up over a hundard thousand sases.

However,I did what I could with what there was and that is just about all one could do.

I think that there will be a lot of children here this winter.I am planning a week day Bible school and I would like to get some meterial for same.I took a trip last week I called into Juneau,and saw Rev.Booth,while there I saw a book that you mailed him.I think it is a good book so if there are some of the books could be gotten I would like to have you mail me some copies,you could send them C.O.D. I wish you could pick me up a good Analytical Bible,I would be willing to pay about $16.00 for one.

In my last letter I asked you to get the Pulpit Bible that you had in mind.Ben Judd has a set that I am going to get for $30.I also asked you to get me a Print-o-graph.I also bought one from our Book store so do not get them.I would very much like to get a plan book for the coming year,so p please mail me one.

The crew that had my boat out ran the boat on a rock,I am putting the boat up in the ship yard.It will cost me over a thousand dollars.

I hope that God is blessing you in the great work you are doing for Him

Sincerely yours,

George R. Betts

September 22, 1944

VIA AIRMAIL

The Rev. George R. Betts
Box 67
Petersburg, Alaska

Dear George:

Sorry to hear that you have had such a poor summer both in fishing and in the accident to your boat. Instead of reducing the mortgage on the boat apparently it will be necessary for you to increase it in order for you to take care of the damage which has been done.

Apparently we have not worked together on this matter of providing materials for you. We followed up the ad which you sent us about the Pulpit Commentary and after a long time received information that it was available. We sent a check to the owner for $25 which was the price, then waited a long time for the delivery of the books. At the present time they are on the way by express to The Rev. W.J.Howell, 107 Main Street, Renton, Washington who is to receive them and put them on the boat as freight for you at Petersburg. We have paid for them out of a revolving fund into which we must put $25 from some source, presumably from you. If you have already purchased the set from Benjamin Judd then we shall ask you to do something about disposing of the set which is coming and reimbursing our fund.

You asked for the mimeograph and indicated that postcard size would be sufficient. I picked up an Economy Duplicator with an extra supply of stencils from a friend of mine and have had him send it by mail to you. The price of it was $3.79. I also paid for this out of our revolving fund and will expect to be reimbursed for it. If the other print-o-graph which you have ordered has already been received then you might interest someone else with the set which we sent. Perhaps we have been somewhat at fault in not notifying you sooner about these things, but we had no assurance until recently that it was possible to get the set of books and the duplicator.

We shall make some inquiry concerning a good Analytical Bible and see if we can get you one.

Mr. Swanson forwarded to me your inquiry concerning the balance of the fund which had been appropriated for your Church and manse. Mr. Booth still has this money in his possession and you can call upon him for it. Perhaps he told you this when you visited with him recently.

A while ago you asked about the possibility of going on a ten months basis. After the experience of this summer do you still want to do that or do you want to think of turning your whole attention for the entire year to your ministry?

We trust that you are ready for another good year's work in your Church with your people. We pray the richest blessings of the Lord upon you in your ministry.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

October 19, 1944

VIA AIRMAIL

The Rev. George K. Betts
Box 67
Petersburg, Alaska

Dear George:

We are late in notifying you of the salary arrangements for the coming year. This has been delayed because we had hoped to receive enough extra money to increase salaries but our hopes were too good and were not fulfilled. However, we want to try to adjust your salary so that you can have some advance.

We are suggesting your salary to be $1600 and manse for the coming year. We are asking your Church to contribute as least $200 toward this salary and the Board will be responsible for the other $1400. The simple fact is that we have the prospect of filling every post this winter and there is not sufficient money to do all of the work without the help of the churches. Your monthly check from the headquarter's office will be $116.66 on a twelve months basis. You have spoken about the possibility of being with us only ten months so that you may have the opportunity of fishing during the two months. We shall take up that matter later when you have come to your decision.

We do not have here listed the name of the Clerk of Session of your Church or any officer through whom we can make this request. If you will send us this information which we have requested in the last Alaska letter we will write a letter to your officers requesting them to make this contribution toward your support so that you will not have to make the request.

We have not forgotten your Analytical Bible and will try to find one for you. We trust the other books and the duplicator have arrived by this time and you have been able to make some adjustments or sell them to someone else.

We hope that your work is opening well this Fall and that you will have a good year. Blessings upon you and your good wife in your important ministry.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

Petersburg, Alaska

October, 20, 1944.

Dr. Earl Jackman
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr Jackman:

Inclosed is a report filled blank for the month of Aug. and Sept., and Sept. and October,

There wasn't much to do durring the summer months as just about all our people were out to the different canneries, however I tried to carry on the services but, there was no one to attend.

The people are now returning from the canneries, some done well but some did not do so good. By the end of next week the rest of our people will be returning from the camps.

The Kake people that were here last year will be staying at Kake as there will be a gathering of the members of the Alaska Native Brother and Sister Hood the first week of November, I was told by the men that they expect to spend the winter here after the Convention.

There is a lot of drinking amoung our Native people here, we have a hard problem to fight, that is the drinking problem. I ask your prayers that something should be done about it..

Sincerely yours,

Roger C. Peratrovich.

Sending this report to you as I do not know if Lee Anson is back to Ketchikan yet.

G. R. B.

OCT 30 1944

Petersburg,Alaska
October 21,1944

Rev.J.Earl Jackman
Board Of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave
New York City,N.Y.

Dear Mr.Jackman:

I want to thank you for ycur nice letter of Sept.22,and for buying the Pulpit Commentry and also the mimeograph.I already got the mimeograph but the set of Commentries are still comming I think they will be here soon.You can be sure that I will make a lot of use of the set.I think I was very lucky that you was able to get the set for me.I do not know just how long it will take me to pay for the set and mimograph,however,inclosed is a money order for the sum of $10 to pay down on the price.Please let me know the full amount so I will know what to pay.

I just got my boat out of the shipyard it sure took a lot of work to get the boat in shape.It did not take as much as I thought to have it fixed up.It costed just about half as what I thought it would cost as I work on the boat along with the men,however,it was a lot of money,when one hasn't the money.The job set me back just $800.

If the Board is willing I would like to go on a nine month bases untill I pay up for the boat.If I had gone out the last summer I could have had the boat clear.However,it was my fault.Youx told me that I could go for the summer.

I am just getting started with the work as a lot of our people were late coming back just about half are back,some are out drying fish and putting up meat for the winter.A lot of new people coming in and out.

I read the full statment that the Board drew up on the "Princeton-Hall.I think it is a fine workout.I for one agree with statment as of "Statement of Policy for The Princeton-Hall Presbyterian Mission Boat"and the added statement of the Board.I am sure that we are all rejoycing over the return of the boat.Our Presbytery will be able to to a lot more in the field.

In your "Alaska News Letter" you asked the workers to send the names of three officials with whom you could correspond to take up matters with the congregation. Elder Frank Booth, Elder John George and Elder Mrs Frank Richardson are the names I am sending in. The office also asked the address of our nearest kin that they could contact with. I am giving the name of Mrs. Fannie Lee, Hoonah, Allaska. Mrs. Lee is my mother also the name of Mr. and Mrs Marion McKinley, also of Hoonah, Alaska, Mrs. McKinley is a sister.

I did not get a copy of the "Plan Book" I do not get the "Monday Morning" I sure will appreciate it if you would see to it. I use to get a copy of the "Monday Morning" from the Rev. E. E. Bromley, and I use to enjoy reading it and also got some helps from it.

It has been raining for nearly two weeks and the roof of our Church is leaking all over. One of the Elders and myself got up and tried to repair the leaks, but found the shingles to be pretty bad it is so bad that it is just like mud took hand fulls out of places. It is rather hard to get meterial for repairs but, we sure will have to do something about it. I am sending the "Estimate of Property Repair blank and made a note of the roof. I haven't had a Session meeting as yet, for the members of the Session are just about all in now so sometime next week we will have a Session meeting and I will bring the matter up to the Session.

You told me sometime ago that the money for a new range for our Church was granted. We got the stove, the money for the stove was raised so when ever you want to send the $90 you may mail same to Hammer and Wiken, Petersburg, Alaska. I want to thank the Board for helping us get the range, for we sure need one, the women of our Church are all happy over it.

I hope you will be able to get me the Bible I spoke about sometime ago. I am sure I will pay for the books and the Bible just as soon as I can.

Sincerely yours

George R. Betts

November 8, 1944

VIA AIRMAIL

The Rev. George R. Betts
Petersburg, Alaska

Dear George:

We are glad to know that you have received the mimeograph and hope by this time that you have received the Commentaries. The total bill was $25.- for the Commentaries, $3.79 for the duplicator, and $11.62 for freight on the Commentaries making a total of $40.41. We have received your check for $10 and are crediting it against this amount. At the same time we are wondering if it might be better for you to withhold $10.- a month or in some other fashion as you direct so that it will not be necessary for you to send a check back to us. We will take care of this as you may desire.

Glad to know that you have your boat back again but sorry to learn that it costs so much which increases your debt.

If you feel that you ought to go on a nine months basis on account of your boat, we will try to make that arrangement for you next summer. Let us know in advance what months you want off and we will make a request for your release at that time.

You asked about a good Analytical Bible and we are enclosing a folder which describes this one. We have not been able to find a folder for any other. Let us know about this and we will buy it in our office giving you the benefit of any discount which we may receive. You indicated that you would spend up to $16.-. The cost would be determined by the kind of binding which you choose.

We are enclosing a check for $90.- to Hammer and Wilken of Petersburg for the stove in the Church. We will ask you to settle this account and send us a receipted bill.

Thank you for the information about your officers and the family record. These things will be helpful to us in the future.

When we get a full report on the men who do not get Monday Morning we want to take up the matter of sending it to all of our workers in Alaska. We

have sent you a copy of the Plan Book and hope that it has arrived by this time.

We hope you will be able to do something about the roof on the Church. We do not have much money available this winter and are waiting for all of the report forms on repairs to come in before we can make a division of the repair money. It will be necessary to ask your people to bear a part of the responsibility.

We are glad to know that you are on the job and will be reaching out to your people as they come into the town. We know you want to do your utmost to advance the Gospel and lead as many people as possible to Christ.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

Enc. Ck. #4652-$90.- to Hammer and Wilken
" Analytical Bible Folder
" Receipt #13470-$18.-

November 30, 1944

VIA AIRMAIL

The Rev. George H. Betts
Petersburg, Alaska

Dear George:

We have received your estimate of repairs for the Church which covers the item of a new roof for the Church. We realize that this is necessary from your description of the condition of the roof and ought to be taken care of as soon as possible.

The Administrative Secretary has allocated only $2000 for the coming year for repairs for all of our buildings in Alaska. This means it will be impossible for us to allow $500 for a new roof on the Church at Petersburg. It will be necessary for us to ask your people to do as much as possible for themselves on this. According to the requests which have come in it might be possible for us to allow as much as $200 for the purchase of materials, and we will have to ask the people to do the balance. Will you see what can be done on this and let me know?

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

December 18, 1944

VIA AIRMAIL

The Rev. George R. Betts
Box 67
Petersburg, Alaska

Dear George:

We are enclosing a check for $25.- which is a personal Christmas gift from the Women's Association of the First Presbyterian Church of Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.

We should also report to you that this same Association has given us $50.- to apply on the new roof for your Church. We shall add this to the $200.- which we promised you along with what your own people can do toward a new roof. We hope this will be helpful and encourage your people to do their best for the benefit of their own Church.

We shall ask you to write to Mrs. Rex S. Clements, 625 Montgomery Avenue, Bryn Mawr, Pa. acknowledging this gift and expressing your own personal thanks for your own part of it and the appreciation of your congregation for the part for the roof. Mrs. Clements is the wife of the Pastor of the Bryn Mawr Church.

Cordial Christmas greetings to you and yours.

Sincerely yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK
Enc. Ck. #8978-$25.-

JAN 4 1945

Petersburg, Alaska
December 28, 1944

Rev. J. Earl Jackman DD
Board Of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Jackman:

The Christmas rush and work is overand the New Year is just about here andit seems that there is so much to do and nothing done. However, we all had a nice Christmas, we had a good Sunday School program, we had the biggest turn out for our Sunday School program that we have ever had.

I have been trying to start a week day Bible class but it is so hard to get the children intrested, they seem to attend just before Christmas and thats all. but I will keep on a calling them. I had a lot of Yake children here last year. I have altogather another bunch of children here this year

We all thank you and the Board of National Missions for the $200 you will help us with for roofing our church I am sure that the community here will help us with the rest, we are very greatful and thank the members of Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church for the gift of $50. It will be a big job and it will have to be done in the early summer, just when all our men will be out fishing but it just has to be done

I haven't heard any more about those books that you send. It is about time that the shipment arrives. You asked if it would be alright to hold about $10 a month for the payment, yes, that will be just fine you may do so.

If it is not too much trouble ask the Treasurer of the Naticanl Mission to send me the amount of salary paid me for the year of 1943 and the tax with held. Treasury department Internal Revenue Service asks me to let them know. Send me a form W-2 or V-2
I just happened to locate form W-2 that the Board send me so just forget the above.

Sincerely,

George R. Betts

1943
Salary — $1052.36
Tax withheld — 15.—

January 10, 1945

VIA AIRMAIL

The Rev. George R. Betts
Petersburg, Alaska

My dear Mr. Betts:

We were glad to receive your letter of December 28th.

The Commentaries were shipped to you some time ago and we trust that they will reach you very soon. As we stated to you in a previous letter, the total bill for the Commentaries, duplicator, and express charges amounted to $40.41 less the $10.- which you had already sent as part payment leaves a total of $30.41 to be paid. We shall ask our Treasury Department to deduct $10.- a month from your salary check in payment of this bill.

We have been informed by our Treasurer's Office that your salary for the calendar year 1943 amounted to $1,252.36 and the amount withheld for tax purposes was $15.-. This was only for part of the year inasmuch as you were ordained in April 1943. We trust this is the information you desire for the Internal Revenue Service.

Sincerely yours,

Frieda Koerner, Secretary to
J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

FK

Mr. Betts Salary

Miss Vint
Unit of Work in Alaska - Miss Koerner
Salary of The Rev. George A. Betts, Petersburg, Alaska
(Alaska Pby.)

January 12, 1945

We have received word from Mr. Betts that $10.- a month be deducted from his salary check in payment of a set of commentaries which were sent him in Sept. 1944, and a duplicator, and the express charges which totaled $40.41 less $10.- which Mr. Betts sent as part payment of this bill leaving a total of $30.41 to be paid: will you please credit the following accounts with these monthly deductions until this bill is paid up?

Credit-Alaska Miscellaneous SOB-SIC Ch/B Account with.....$18.79

Credit-Administration, Telephone, Telegraph, & Postage..... 11.62
S.S.Missions

$30.41

FK

Unit of Work in Alaska
per

January 25, 1945

VIA AIRMAIL

The Rev. George R. Betts
Petersburg, Alaska

My dear Mr. Betts:

Mr. Jackman has been in conference with our Purchasing Agent, The Rev. William J. Howell, in Renton, Washington. We have just received a letter from Mr. Jackman in which he reports that the Company which was to transport your books went broke and the shipping of the books was delayed. They have now been shipped so you surely should get them in the very near future. This will explain the long delay in not reaching their destination long before this.

Sincerely yours,

Frieda Koerner, Secretary to
J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

FK

Petersburg,Alaska
March,9,1945

MAR 19 1945

Dr.J.Earl Jackman
156 Fifth Ave.
New York City,N.Y.

Dear Mr.Jackman:

It has been sometime since I wrote.I do hpoe that you had afine trip out West and that you are now back home,and getting reddy for your Alaska trip,to which we are all looking forward to.

The Lord is blessing us all I know.I looked forward to some great doings for the winter but as usual a lot of our people that were here from other villages moved back durring the winter months.Our Sunday school became small,I lost my Sunday School teacher,even my organist moved away,yet there is so much to do,for there are always Natives coming in to town to shop and as I have said before there are a lot of people here that are always trying to sell them liquor,there are ar lot of our young men and women that has to be reminded of the Spiritual things right along.I do what I can to met the young people that come in.

We are getting ready to reshingle our church just as soon as the weather gets right.Rev.Swanson,is seeing to it that the shingles are cut.He is having it cut at Hyderburg,it is much cheaper to have it cut there.I think that you could send the $200 right on to Swanson at Hyderburg,we are now raising the rest of the money and hope that we will have enough by the time we get to Hyderburg for tha meeting of Presbytery.
I do not know just how long it will take to shingle our building but I will try and have it done before I go out fishing.

The Rev.Paul Proudy,was in here last month with the S.J.S. basket ball team.Proudy,told me at that time that he was unable to have a Session meeting at Kake,as he was not yet a member of the Presbytery of Alaska.In case we did not get back the Princeton-Hall I was asked by the Presbytery to go over to Kake,at least two times.I thought all the time that Proudy wasa calling in at Kake so I never went over.Just as soon as I saw Proudy,I wrote the chairman of our National Missions,he told me to go over and do what I could.I went and spend the last week end at Kake.
We had some fine meetings.I arrived at Kake early Saturday morning.We had a service that same evening.we had a very good turn out about ninty attended.
Sunday morning we had communion,six young people joined the church.We had a Congregational meeting in the after noon
In the evening the Church was so full that some were standing we planned on returning Monday morning but we were asked

by the people to stay another day so we stayed.Monday evening we held an Evangelistic service.Eight young people and two older people came forward and excepted Christ as their Saviour It was after eleven o'clock,before we were through.
Our Lay-worker is doing a great work there for the Master.I think we should do more of visiting other fields.I am sure we get a real blessing from doing so.Kake needed an awaking as a man took up his gun and killed another man there last month,both are natives.The people of Kake, are closer to God then they have ever been.For about three years they have been loosing intrest in Spititual things.But I can say that there has been Spiritual awaking there.The Kake Church paid the whole expences of my trip.

The work of the Salvation Army has changed hands the last year Alaska was under the Canadan branch,but,the work was turned over to the U.S.A.branch.The new branch is just about sweeping our part of Alaska.They have Native workers traveling to every town and village,we have already lost some of our young people.We lost Robert Martin,a young man we had in mind for a law-worker.They are making a drive for members.and if we are not on our toes we will be loosing a lot of our members.I was glad that I made the trip to Kake.

Well, we are all looking forward to your visit,we will be able to talk things over togather.

Inclosed is the Sunday School offering for Lincoln's birthday.

May God bless you and your family,

Sincerely yours

March 23, 1945

VIA AIRMAIL

The Rev. George K. Betts
Box 67
Petersburg, Alaska

Dear George:

We are gald to know that you are making progress on the reshingling of the Church. We are following your suggestion and sending a check for $200 directly to Mr. Swanson for the cost of the shingles. We shall ask him to give us a receipted bill for this amount when the job is finished.

Glad to know that you have been alert in helping Kake. Mr. Duguqua wrote that they had not had a visit from an ordained minister this winter and your letter explains the situation.

You are right! We must be on our toes and do a good job to keep going forward in our own work. We have everything that any other group has and more too. We need to work at it with all of our power.

Am looking forward to a visit with you again and I hope to be able to stop over at Petersburg before Presbytery and say hello to you and your people.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

MAY 8 1945

Petersburg, Alaska
May 3, 1945

Rev J. Earl Jackman,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Jackman:

I am just wondering if you have already made your round trip, if so it must have been a long and a hard trip. However, I do hope and pray that you got home safe.

I have been very busy since I got back from Presbytery, I am putting new posts under our Church building for it sure needed it, it has been raining so much that I was not able to work at it the last two days but the weather is looking better now, I will be able to get to work again. There is so much to do. I am also cutting the brush off the manse, since we got the deed for the house and lot I started to clear the lot. There has been so much brush and old lumber laying around the house that it really needed cleaning.
I also got in the new drain pipe line from the kitchen of the church to the main line. We hired a plumer to do the work but he went out fishing, so I got the line in.
I wish the shingles were here I think I could have the building shingled before I leave here, we are trying to get the shingles as soon as possible, but meterial is so hard to get right now. I think we will be able to get some paper shingles through the Wrangell store I asked Ben Judd to have it ordered from Wrangell.

We are also packing up our things so the place will be ready for Duquga to move into. I sure have a lot of things to move. I may have the things packed and left here untill the first of September, that will save a lot of packing things around, I wish I had the time to go over to Hoonah and put up the Yakutat huts up so we could move in. However, I will be fishing right around Hoonah, this summer, that is the first part of the summer. I will be in Hoonah every Saturday nights and stay over Sunday, in so doing I will be able to see how things will be coming along. I sure would appreciate very much if I could get some hymn books to use there at Hoonah, it will take some time to get things agoing and might as well start right now, see if you could locate some second hand hymn books I am sure we will be able to get enough money some how to pay for it. I would like to get a communion set also. I have two plates that will do but I do not have any glasses and trays, so if you can pick up two trays and glasses I will buy it. I think I will make some money fishing.

Inclosed is a drawing of the manse, it is the best I could do, inclosed is also a list of things in the manse. I bought one second hand chair for the setting room also one rocking chair and a mirrow. I paid five dollars for the two chairs and three dollars for the mirrow making a tottal of eight dollars. If you will replace the eight dollars I wil leave the chairs and mirrow in the manse, if I take the chairs and

mirrow Dugaqu,will just have to buy some,I am not trying to load these ~~thiggs~~ things on to the Board,but it is needed at the manse.

Since there is so much repairs to be done here the church will not be able to pay the salary they were suppose to pay,however,the elders were not notified about the matter.The life ~~tire~~ of the church here is Mrs Lena Richardson,so in the future notify her.

I am still looking for the set of the Pulpit Commentary,I hope the set is not lost.

Sincerely yours,

George R. Betts

May 21, 1945

VIA AIRMAIL

Mr. George R. Betts
Box #67
Petersburg, Alaska

Dear George:

We have had a protest against your transfer from Petersburg to Hoonah. What do you have to say about it?

During the meeting of the National Missions Committee you exhibited your true spirit of ministry by agreeing to go where the Committee felt you could serve well. You did so, however, when there might be some personal complications because of the presence of your family in Hoonah and your Mother's relationship to the Salvation Army. Will this embarrass you? If so please be free to speak your mind on it.

We have been delayed in regard to the contract for the Hoonah Church and manse. Our Board has delayed action until the June meeting when I am to report and make some recommendation. It may not be ready by Fall but we hope it will.

Write me a letter and say frankly what you think about the transfer. Also tell me when you plan to go fishing. Has your Church done anything more on salary? Pending their action I think we had better send you an extra $100 because we want you to have the salary which was promised.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:VK

May 2[illegible], 1945

VIA AIRMAIL

The Rev. George R. Betts
Box [illegible]7
Petersburg, Alaska

Dear George:

We wrote you about the $100 additional to make up what the Church did not pay but did not tell you that we had increased your salary as of April 1st by the amount of $50. between April 1st and September 30th. This will add approximately $8.35 a month to your salary checks. You should request this on your next voucher and we will ask the Treasury Department to pay what is due you from April 1st on.

When you send in your next voucher in connection with your report you should request the $100 additional salary about which we notified you. This will keep our vouchers straight with the auditors.

Let us hear from you about your reaction to Hoonah or Petersburg.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jacoman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

MAY 28 1945

Petersburg, Alaska
May 25, 1945

Rev. J. Earl Jackman
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City N.Y.

Dear Mr Jackman:

Just got your letter of the 21 of May, this shows that you got home safe and you can be sure that we are all glad that you got home after a safe and long trip.

I note that you have had a protest against our teansfer from Petersburg, to Hoonah, I'll say this, if the protest is from Hoonah, it is best not to go, but, if the protest is from Petersburg, then I am glad to say the we are already packed to go to Hoonah, I was figuring to run over with some of our things as we sure have a lot of things to pack but, my boat will be able to take it all I think. Mrs Betts likes this field but, we have been here too long and I think Mr. Duquga will do a lot here, he has been here looking things over and some of the Elders has already welcomed him to come. The best time to leave a field is when the people and friends still think a lot of a person. As for mother being a member of the Salvation Army that has nothing to do with my work. Mother was here last winter, she stayed with us for two months and she was a great help to me, mother is more of a Presbyterian then a Salvationist.

I got all the posts under the church, the shingles are not here yet and if the shingles comes late Duquga will have to put it on and I am sure he could do it.

The fishing season opens the 25th of June. I would like to be out on the fishing grounds by the first of July, but it takes a week to make up the fishing gear, so if it is alright with you I would like to leave here for Hood Bay, June 25, that will give me time to make up my net and pitch camp, we have houses to live in, but, a supply of wood and so on has to be gotten, However, a lot of our people from here has already moved to canneries out side, the children went along with their perants, that leaves very few to attend a Vaction Bible School, if we have enough children left I will try and start one after the Conference at Sitke, as some of our youngsters are going there, however, if I leave here on the 20th, of June I may be able to have a Vacation Bible School at Hood Bay, as there are always a lot of children there.

5/29/45 Just the phone from Ofc. pd until July 1946

As for the salary that the Church was to pay me,there has been nothing done,I know the church would have been glad to pay what they supposed to pay,but,the Elders were not notefied,if one was written to,the letters may have been lost,most of the members are out now and the Church has a lot on hand.Please let me know right away if the Insurance is due on our church and if so let me know the amount and I will see to it that it is paid,if I should leave and the amount due is not paid,the church may not be able to pay for a long time,for,this church has had a lot of trouble in paying,so,please let me know at the very earlest date.

I wish you could find out if there is any films for an 8 mm ~~to~~ available.I have a projector and I sure would like to get films for it.

if available should the be sent to Pilesburg or Woodbury?

Sncerely yours,

George R. Betts

MAY 31 1945

Petersburg, Alaska
May, 26 - 1945

Rev. J. Earl Jackman
156 Fifth ave
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Jackman:

I do not know if I made myself clear as to what I think of the transfer to Hoonah, I sure would like to go to Hoonah, I think there is so much to do among our people there. I just got a letter from one of the Elders, (John Marvin) he is over at Excursion Inlet, Elder Marvin told me in his letter that he and the members of the Hoonah Church that are over at Excursion Inlet, were so happy to hear that we were coming that they got to gather and thanked the Lord for having us to come. Now Mr. Jackman, I will go where-ever you think best, When I got on the field Mrs. Betts promised that we will be

willing to go where there is need. I wish you would let me know what you decide, as I already gave a lot of things away, and if I find that you would rather have us stay, I may have to buy a lot more to replace what I gave away.

However, I will call into Hoonah, while fishing and have services there, Hoonah, is altogether different from other fields, as there is a cannery about 2 miles from there with a lot of Natives working there. I will also visit Excursion Inlet.

Please pick out an Analytical Bible for me a #16.00 one if this letter gets down there before the check leaves dedust. I will let you do the picking. I gave my good Bible away to a new convert, so I need one bad

If you decide we go to Hoonah, we will go even if the church is not ready.

Sincerely,

George B. Betts

JUN 5 1945

Petersburg, Alaska
June 2 - 1945 -

Rev. J. Earl Jackman
156 Fifth ave
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Jackman:

In your last letter, you told me to make out an extra voucher for a $100, if the Church did not take any action on what they supposed to pay me. as I stated in my last letter that the Church did not get a letter telling them to pay the $200 if they had gotten one they sure would have raised the sum. Enclosed is a voucher for the $100.

Sincerely yours

George R. Betts

June 4, 1945

VIA AIRMAIL

The Rev. George Betts
Box 67
Petersburg, Alaska

Dear George:

Thank you for your two letters giving us the benefit of your thinking in regard to the move to Hoonah. I should not have left the inference that the protest against this move was from Hoonah. The protest came from Petersburg; they don't want to lose you. However, your letters clear the matter up and we can say to you very definitely that you ought to go to Hoonah.

As I told you in a former letter the plans for the work on the Church have been delayed and we are not sure that the Church itself will be available by Fall. However, we do have the exclusive right for services in the Quonset hut which was reassembled at our expense so there will be a place for services as soon in the Fall as you are ready. I have no suggestion to make to you as a place to live. Perhaps you can do some investigating on that.

By this time you will have received the extra check which goes to make up the amount which the Church did not pay you on salary. When you get settled in the Fall, we shall guarantee that this will be cared for.

The insurance on the Church at Petersburg has been paid until July 1946 so you can leave with the thought that this has been taken care of by your congregation.

Glad to know that you have been successful in getting the piling replaced under the Church. That will be a big help and Willie Duguqua can pick up the shingling when he gets there in the Fall.

We shall get the Analytical Bible for you and I am wondering if we should send it to Hoonah. You may not want to pack any extra things and it would be better for you to have it delivered where you are to be located.

One more word about the Quonset hut in Hoonah. We made an agreement with the Office of Indian Affairs in Juneau that we would pay the labor cost of demounting and reassembling the hut and we would have the exclusive right for religious services in the hut. The Salvation Army were to have services in the school building. If there is any doubt about this get in touch with Mr. Prouty or Mr. Booth through whom the arrangements were made and who paid the bills for it.

We shall expect you to go fishing at the end of June and will stop your salary checks for July and August. Then when you are through fishing and can find a place to live in Hoonah move over there as early in September as possible.

We do not have available any 8mm film. All our films are made up in 16mm size and I am not sure where you could find something which would be of an educational or religious nature for the 8mm projector.

While you are temporarily off the payroll of the Board yet we feel sure that you do not leave the service of the Master. You will be bearing your witness for Him all during the fishing season wherever you may be. We trust the Lord will bless you and that you will have a good season.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

July 11, 1945

VIA AIRMAIL

The Rev. George Betts
Petersburg, Alaska

Dear George:

We have just signed the contract for the construction of the new Church at Hoonah. The work is supposed to begin about August 1st and we have some promise that the Church may be completed in November.

On account of the high cost of construction, we do not have sufficient funds either to complete the Church or to build a manse at present. We must delay the building of the house until a later time when building costs may come down and we can get some local labor to help in this project. Meanwhile, we are asking Mr. Booth to apply to the Office of Indian Affairs for the rental of one of the new houses for you and Mrs. Betts. We hope this may be possible so that you will be provided with an adequate home for your ministry.

Until the Church is ready for occupancy you should arrange to hold services in the Fall in the Quonset hut.

I am sure that you will do everything possible to redevelop the work at Hoonah and lead your people in a great ministry. You have an unusual opportunity and also a large responsibility. The Committee feels certain that you are equal to it.

Hope you are having a good summer.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

via airmail
Petersburg 9/1/45 8 p.m.

SEP 6 1945

Petersburg, Alaska
Aug, 31, 1945

Alaska Ky

100 Vesper Chimes.
24 Bibles 218M ?
1 Min. Book.
1 Congre Register
no com set yet.

Rev. J. Earl Jackman
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave.
New York City N.Y.

Dear Mr Jackman:

I wired you when I got back from fishing and told you that I was leaving Wednesday, however the members asked us to spend Sunday with them here so I plan to leave here Monday.

We had the poorest fishing season in years, the fish was late coming, the season was closed before the fish got here, there are all kinds of fish now but the season is closed. I think the fishermen around Hydaburg and Craig are really doing fine. The season closed there last night. I just heard that Mr. Peck lost one of his men over board, that was sure too bad.

I was over in Icy straits while there I stopped in at Hoonah, about three weeks ago. I was told by the book keeper of the contractor that owing to the shortage of men and meterial that the work on the Church will not get started untill about the middle of Sept. Also found out that there was no place tolive as the cook for the company was staying in the house that was put up for the worker. I also found out from Mayor Douglas, that if one of the houses was to be rented for me, that the applaction shoud come from a native. Mr. Douglas, asked me at the time to put in an applacation, Itold him that I was not sure if the Board was planning to rent one and that I would let you know and get your advice. However, I will let you know how things are next week

The moving will just cost me $35, that is for gass, oil, hauling my things to the dock and all. I hired a man to come down and help me for it is rather hard for me to runn the boat alone. The $35 includs all.

We men up here are always telling you our troubles. I would like to ask the Board to work for the contractor at Hoonah, for a month if they are still short of men, I will do my church work with out salary for the month I worked. I am leaving here and will have some bills still standing out. I will be owing about $275 here, as you know it takes some money to move. Fishing was very poor. The wreck of my boat set me back $3000 last year, poor as the season was I paid $1000 down on the sum so I did not do so bad. If there was a run like last summer I could have cleared everything. I will let you know more about the matter after getting to Hoonah.

I am sure glad that I was able to get out to the cannery for the summer.There is so much going on at the canneries,there are a lot of men that come up to the canneries with the idea of making a lot of money from our Natives,they bring up a lot of liquor to the canneries,there are a lot of men that comes up just because they think this is a wild country and can fool our native men and women.I just can't give you a picture of what a cannery life is,men comes up and brekk up our native homes,lie to our young women.I really do think it is god to get out there and be a help to our native people.I did not gok to Hood Bay last year.A lot of drinking went on three native homes broke up.It was different this year everything was quit,it makes a lot of differnce to have a lay-worker or some faithful Elder at one of our canneries.I think what we should have is a camp Chaplain,yes we have the Princeton-Hall,but,we have a big field with all the running I did I never saw the boat all summer,I wish you just could see what goes on at the canneries,then I think we could do more for our people in the summer.Satan is out with his full force in the summer,and we Christain should see to it that a lot of our young girls and boys get some help.

Sometime ago I aske about a Communion set I will ask again,I wish you could pick up a set or two oftrays and glass for the Hoonah church we will need it also send me up a Session book I will be willing to pay about $5 amonth on the payment on the orderuntill it is paid for.you can hold that ut of my salary. I will need some hynm books and a few Bibles.I think I have been asking too much now.

If I know what I knew now mabe I would have said that I will stay Somehow the town does not want us to leave.The town asked us to stay.We told the people that we may come back some day,if God is willing.

How about the Bulpit Commantary set hope they are not lost,

9/4/45 ltr from Howell. Rec'd in Seattle but Co. went bankrupt & all shipments held up; Tray Gillanders Co for unmerchantable shipment to Pittsburg (F.W. Ha letter) Glosser Bros

Next letter the Lord willing will be from Hoonah